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Gulf Foreign Ministers Meet Iran's Velayati

JN2909190990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1840 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] New York, 29 Sep (WAKH)—The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] met today in New York with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. They discussed the developing relations between the GCC member states and Iran and cooperation among them.

The meeting also reviewed the serious situation in the Gulf that has resulted from the Iraqi military invasion of the State of Kuwait, and the regional and international efforts to bring about an unconditional end to the Iraqi occupation and the restoration of legitimacy in Kuwait.

WAKH has learned that the meeting stressed the need to maintain security in the Gulf by respecting the independence and territorial integrity of all the states there.

Further on Meeting

LD3009094590 Tehran IRNA in English 0803 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 30 (IRNA)—The latest developments in the Persian Gulf region were discussed in a meeting of foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his counterparts at the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (P)GCC here Saturday [29 September].

Present in the meeting were Sa'ud al-Faysal of Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah of Kuwait, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah of Bahrain, Rashid 'Abdallah of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Mubarak Bin-'Ali of Qatar, Yusuf Bin-Alawi Bin-'Abdallah of Oman and Abdallah Bisharau, (P)GCC secretary general, and ambassadors of these countries to the U.N.

Cooperation among the regional countries for the establishment of peace and stability in the region was also raised in the talks. The (P)GCC ministers condemned Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and called for its unconditional withdrawal and restoration of sovereignty, and territorial integrity of that country.

The ministers who are here for the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly also called for promotion of their relations with Iran. They unanimously opposed any change in recognized international borders in the region stressing that such a move will be unacceptable. They also called for observation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Velayati stressed that safeguarding regional security was solely the responsiblity of the littoral states and said that a lasting peace and stability will be achieved only through regional cooperation.

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Foreign Ministers Confer With Baker

LD2909062690 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Foreign Ministers conferred in New York last night with the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker within the framework of the intensified diplomatic relations and contacts being carried out by the GCC foreign ministers during the current United Nations General Assembly session.

Issues of mutual interest were examined during the meeting, at which the Kingdom was represented by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister and head of the Kingdom's delegation to the UNGA.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Call Conference Issues Communique

LD2809222890 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1955 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Dear listeners, we greet you from the Dhat al-'Imad hall in Tripoli, where the work ended today at the fourth conference of the Islamic Call which was held under the slogan: The Islamic Call and the Scope of the Future. The work ended with the reading of the final communique of the conference, which began its work on 24 September. It dealt with several Islamic issues.

The conference greeted the jihad of the Arab Palestinian people, and the stone-throwing revolution led by the angry generation against the Zionist occupation of the Arab occupied lands. The conference also condemned the continuous immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, and urged Muslims, and all peoples and governments to expose this immigration and confront it.

Concerning the Gulf problem, the conference saw in the initiative of the brother leader of the revolution [Al-Qadhdhafi] a logical and realistic solution to the problem of the Gulf which would guarantee the rights of all parties in the dispute, and opposes the greedy ambitions of imperialist forces aimed at Islam, Muslims, and their resources.

The final communique also declared the conference's support for the cause of Muslims in the southern Philippines, Kashmir, and Sri Lanka; and Muslims in China, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Albania, and South Africa. The conference also showed great interest in the situation of Islamic minorities throughout the world, stressing the need to care for them and protect them. [passage omitted]

Agenda Outlined for 1 Oct ICO Meeting

LD2809202390 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has announced that the ICO foreign ministers will hold their annual coordination meeting on 1 October in New York on the sidelines of the 45th UN General Assembly session. The meeting will aim at coordinating the stances of the Islamic countries toward the various points on the agenda.

ICO Secretary-General Dr. Hamid Algabid, told SPA that the draft agenda of this annual meeting includes five points which are:

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its effects on regional peace, security, and stability;

The Palestinian cause and Jerusalem;

The situation in Afghanistan;

The situation in South Africa; and

The current economic situation. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLF Leader Threatens To Attack U.S. Aircraft

NC2909084790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 29 sep 90

[Text] At a time when U.S. President George Bush may try to obtain a UN resolution allowing military action to solve the Gulf crisis, Iraq threatened to launch a war involving oil fields, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab countries.

Meanwhile, Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad Abbas], leader of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], has announced that the front will attack American and foreign aircraft should Iraqi aircraft be harmed.

PLO To Meet EEC on Mitterrand Initiative

JN2909184090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] In Amman, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has said that meetings between the PLO and the EEC will be held in the next two weeks in an attempt to develop the ideas contained in French President Francois Mitterrand's initiative on the settlement of the Gulf crisis and other Middle East problems. 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the PLO is holding contacts with European capitals, particularly Rome and Paris, to pave the way for some kind of political link between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian cause.

PLO, Italian Minister To Discuss Gulf Solution

LD3009184290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Brother 'Abd Rabbuh, director of the PLO Information Department, stated yesterday that a meeting between a number of high-ranking PLO officials and the Italian foreign minister, whose country currently chairs the EEC, will take place during the coming two weeks to develop the ideas in French President Mitterrand's initiative to achieve a comprehensive solution to the region's problems.

'Abd Rabbuh, who arrived in [name indistinct] from, Moscow, pointed out that the PLO is holding contacts with European capitals, particularly Paris and Rome, in order to prepare the atmosphere and create some sort of political linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian cause. He added that his talks in Moscow last week also focused on this subject, pointing out that he had received the Soviet leadership's initial acceptance.

The Soviet leadership, furthermore, promised to consider seriously the possibility of convening a session of the UN Security Council in order to examine the situation in the Middle East in a comprehensive manner. This is in harmony with the core of President Saddam Husayn's initiative on 12 August on how to end occupations in the region. He pointed out that the PLO seeks to include fresh parties to join the Rabat tripartite summit, adding that the scope of consultation might also include, Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia, Libya, Oman, and the PLO.

Control of Gulf Oil Resources Said U.S. Aim

JN2909114090 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 29, INA—Chairman of the Palestinian National Council Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih said that Iraq's drive under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn reflected the principled stances it adopted in service of the Arab nation and its issues.

In a dialogue published today by AL-'IRAQ daily, Shaykh al-Sa'ih described as baseless the U.S. Administrations' claims that Iraq threatens Saudi Arabia and intends to occupy it.

He disclosed the fact which Bush administration was trying to hide, namely, America's intention of dominating the region and controllig its oil resources. He confirmed that the deployment of America and its allies' forces in the region represented a prelude to a crusade attack targetting the Gulf and the Arab Peninsula, which shelters the Moslems' holiest sanctities.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih stressed that whoever embrances Islam could never accept the presence of foreign forces in the cradle of Islam. He referred to Kuwait's return to the motherland, saying that historical facts proved that

Kuwait was part of Iraq, as Kuwait district president used to receive orders, instructions and even his salary from Basrah.

The Palestinian official said that the rulers of Najd, Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and Egypt should have resorted to the Koran verses and prophetic traditions in solving Arab issues, instead of turning themselves into puppets to a state hostile to Arabs and Islam.

He was confident that all plans and conspiracies being hatched by America and its allies against Iraq would meet with failure. He underlined that despite the large number of armies and huge military equipment in the land of sanctities, Iraq would be capable of bringing victory and the Arab will would be the triumphant.

On President Saddam Husayn's initiative of Aug 12, last, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said, "As Arabs and Moslems, we support this initiative and believe that it is the ideal solution to all pending problems and issues."

Addressing those who called for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, Shaykh al-Sa'ih wondered why they had never asked Israel to withdraw from the Arab territories or to abide by the international resolutions.

PFLP-GC Official Denies Jibril Role in Plan

JN3009102890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Sep 90 p 15

[Text] Amman (AL-DUSTUR)—Mustafa Ikhmis, member of the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has denied reports that the front's Secretary-General, Ahmad Jibril, is involved in attempts to establish a new PLO in coordination with Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

In a telephonce call, Ikhmis said these attempts aim at dealing a blow to the Palestinian revolution at a time when we are very much in need of national unity and solidarity on the basis of armed struggle and the Palestinian National Charter.

He stressed that the front is against the imperialist American presence in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia. It will fight the Americans to expel them from the Arab land and to make them leave the resolving of Arab affairs to the Arabs.

Intifadah Leaders Urge Escalation in Territories

NC2909070090 Paris AFP in English 1602 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Tunis, Sept 28 (AFP)—Leaders of the Palestinian uprising have ordered militants to "strike hard" against Israelis in the occupied territories until restrictions are lifted on a refugee camp where a soldier was killed last week.

The uprising's underground Unified Leadership, in a statement distributed in the territories and carried Friday [28 September] by the Palestinian news agency WAFA, declared that militants would "chase Israeli soldiers everywhere."

It said that the leadership would "respond to the repressive Israeli measures" imposed at the al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, where an angry crowd burned an army reservist to death in his car on September 20.

The statement declared the next few days as "days of escalation" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and called on all militant groups "to strike hard against Israeli soldiers and settlers during those days."

It also urged Palestinan workers who work in Israel proper to stay home until the "blockade" slapped on al-Burayj camp is lifted.

The Israeli army has maintained a curfew on al-Burayj since the murder, detained scores of Palestinian suspects and destroyed some 30 homes and businesses in the camp.

The reservist, Amnon Pomerantz, was killed after accidentally driving into the camp and knocking down two Palestinian youths in an attempt to escape.

The incident has sparked outrage and anger in Israel and sharply raised tension in the occupied territories, which have been gripped by the Palestinian uprising since December 1987.

Several hundred Palestinians staged a sit-in Friday outside the offices of the Red Cross in Gaza City in protest at the army's crackdown on al-Burayj, Arab sources said in Jerusalem.

The demonstrators called on international and human rights bodies, including the U.N. Security Council, to ban the destruction of property carried out by the Israeli army in the occupied territories.

Palestinians also demonstrated in the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Rafah, while in the West Bank town of Ramallah, a three-day strike was called in support of al-Burayj residents, the sources said.

'Arafat Meets With Soviet Envoy to Tunis

LD3009175890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Brother President-Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has received the Soviet ambassador to Tunis. They examined the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the need to find an Arab political solution for it. They also examined the dangerous situation in the occupied Palestinian land given the increase of Israeli terrorist practices against the sons of our people, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Belgian Minister's 'Clarifications' Welcomed

LD2809221990 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] The PLO has expressed its satisfaction regarding the apology and clarifications presented by the Belgian foreign minister vis-a-vis his statement made a few days ago on the settlement of Palestinians in Kuwait.

This was stated by Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO representative in Tunis. He stressed that such clarifications put an end to the serious repercussions engendered by such statements. In addition such statements do not comply with the will of the Palestinian people to reject any alternative homeland wherever it may be [other than Palestine]

PLO Central Council To Meet in Tunis 10 Oct

JN3009125590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Sep 90 First Edition p 1

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] An informed Palestinian source has said that the PLO Central Council will meet in Tunis on 10 October. In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, the source said that the meeting will be attended by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine; Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, chairman of the Council; George Habash, secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; the secretaries-general; and a large number of Palestinian leaders. The conferees will discuss the current developments in the region, especially following the Gulf crisis which the Palestinian leadership insists on linking to the resolution of the Palestine question.

The source also said that the Council will discuss the future strategy of Palestinian action and will call for convening the Palestine National Council to discuss and evaluate the Palestinian march over the past three years.

The source did not rule out the possibility of abandoning the Palestinian flexibility if the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continues.

The source pointed out that the Central Council will also discuss the Gulf states' expulsion of Palestinian workers and the grave harm inflicted on the Palestinian people's interests as a result of this action.

Algeria

Ghazali Tells Baker of 'Concern' Over Gulf

LD2809225390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] On the sidelines of the UNGA session, the Algerian foreign minister had talks with his U.S. counterpart, James Baker. The meeting, which lasted more than one hour, enabled the Algerian side to emphasize Algeria's deep concern over the Gulf crisis, and its desire to settle this crisis through peaceful ways. This also means that no solution that means the destruction of an Arab country, i.e Iraq, should be used.

During this meeting, Mr. Ghazali explained to James Baker the efforts made by President Chadli Bendjedid. These efforts are based on respecting international legitimacy while protecting the supreme interests of the Arab nation by way of granting all peoples of the region justice and dignity.

In Algeria's opinion, the credibility of the new world order means a full commitment of the international community to the respect of international law, especially regarding the Palestinian cause.

Mr. Ghazali will meet his Soviet opposite on 2 October on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Party Leaders Comment on Situation in Gulf

LD3009224490 Paris Antenne 2 Television in French 1900 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Excerpts] We will now look at how the Gulf crisis is being felt in Algeria. The successive appeals by Saddam Husayn have not unleashed any obvious crowd movements. Still more surprisingly, the call by Ahmed Ben Bella in support of Iraq has not been widely followed. Our special reporters, Pierre Serra and Dominique Merlin, report:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] In Algeria, as in other Arabic countries, the events in the Gulf are deeply felt. In the Arabs' eyes, law and justice do not coincide here; they actually contradict. This dichotomy is reflected by the evident discomfort at the government level, with the government declining to comment on the matter. For the opposition, although the same discomfort is felt, there is not the same reserve.

[Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front] What is flagrant is the unequal treatment between, on one hand, the way in which the United Nations has been boycotted and vetoes have been used against all the resolutions made by the United Nations as far as Palestine is concerned, and, on the other hand, the huge armada which has been hastily sent.

[Reporter] [passage omitted] Abassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, is on the side of justice. According to him, in this crisis justice can not but work in favor of the Muslims.

[Abassi Madani] Kuwait has a right to its sovereignty. The existence of the armada is a (?challenge) to the Muslim nation.

[Reporter] All the same, you want to avoid war.

[Abassi Madani] Of course war should be avoided. It is by means of dialogue that solutions can be found.

[Reporter] Is your position close to that of Saudi Arabia or that of Iraq?

[Abassi Madani] It is close to neither that of Saudi Arabia nor of Iraq, but to that of justice [words indistinct].

[passage omitted] [end recording]

Reporter Reviews Ben Bella News Conference

Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Excerpts] A news conference was held by Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella at the Aurassi Hotel this morning. It is continuing at this moment. Mr. Ben Bella once again called for the dismissal of the Hamrouche government while specifying this morning exactly what he holds against it. Ahmed Ben Bella also made some proposals. Tewfik Benaichouche:

[Benaichouche] [passage omitted] The subjects tackled were domestic policy, of course, foreign policy, Algerian political life first of all. [Words indistinct] Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella had called for the dismissal of the Hamrouche government. Today we know what he blames this government for and also what he proposes. Above all he blames it for the way, I quote, in which the current government managed the last local elections. These elections were tainted by irregularities. Thus with the legislative elections in mind, said Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella, the current government should be dismissed to remove any trace of suspicion. Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella added: President Chadli Bendjedid should form a new government made up, I quote, of public figures known for their integrity and their independence, end of quotation. On the other hand, the former Algerian president did not specify which public figures, according to him, should feature in this new cabinet or if he would possibly agree to head it.

Another criticism of the current government is what Ahmed Ben Bella calls the failure of the economic reforms. On this point he issued a harsh indictment this morning, adding that the public sector and the private sector, according to him, were at least agreed on one point; rejection of these reforms. He also spoke about the fight against small-scale blackmarketeering, which he considered to have borne fruit. On the other hand he said that large-scale black-marketeering was doing very well.

A final criticism: One has the impression, said Ahmed Ben Bella, that everything possible has been done deliberately to break up [atomiser] the Algerian political landscape. He believes it is dangerous. This political landscape must be rebuilt. I am ready to do it, he said. In this regard he proposes forming a broad democratic front, but without mentioning with which partners. Two principles would form the basis of this broad democratic front, he added: national unity and a consensus on a joint minimum program. [passage omitted]

Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella also spoke about the problem of the Gulf, the Gulf crisis. He referred to Iraq; he renewed his call. As you know, yesterday he called on Algerians to register with the Iraqi authorities, if Iraq needed them, to go and defend them and wage war, but he specified this morning [it should be] in the event Iraq needed them. He gave his version of the crisis. In his view once the spring cleaning has been done in the socialist world, there is no longer any question—these are his words—of the Arab sheep's budging; this is how he pinpoints Western policy. He says it is intolerable. He also had very harsh words this morning for the Western press, the foreign press, which asked a question of him. He criticized them in particular for misinforming [the public]. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Palestinians, Iraqis Arrested at Cairo Mosque

NC2909151590 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept 29 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities have arrested seven Palestinians trying to distribute pro-Iraqi leaflets in a Cairo mosque, police sources said Saturday [27 September]. They were arrested on September 21 with leaflets that "incited the faithful to support Iraq's position and attack the leaders in the Gulf and countries supporting Kuwait," police said in their first report on the incident.

The group, travelling on Jordanian passports, entered Egypt after Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait. Three other Palestinians and two Iraqis were arrested in the northern port city of Alexandria in possession of weapons and a list of Egyptian writers and journalists "whom they planned to assassinate" because of their opposition to the Iraqi invasion, police said. The second group also arrived in Cairo after August 2 as tourists with visas permitting them to stay for one month, they said.

The opposition Al-Wafd newspaper said the suspects were "part of a large terrorism operation, conducted by Iraq, and aimed at several capitals." Jordanians, Yemenis, Iraqis and Palestinians have recently been required to obtain Egyptian entry visas before arrival. Three Iraqis were arrested at Cairo airport reportedly trying to sneak in on forged Kuwaiti passports.

Syrian Vice President Arrives in Cairo 30 Sep

NC3009073390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0713 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Cairo this morning.

Comments on Message From Al-Asad

NC3009083890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0810 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Upon arrival in Cairo airport this morning, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam stated that he is bringing a message to President Husni Mubarak from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad on recent Syrian efforts. Commenting on the message, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said:

[Begin recording] [Khaddam] President Hafiz al-Asad has entrusted me with a message to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on current developments in the Arab region, primarily the Gulf crisis. The message also deals with issues of common interest.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Vice President: Does the message also explain the outcome of President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Iran?

[Khaddam] Naturally, because we coordinate our stands, cooperate, and exchange views. Each of us briefs the other on his activities, particularly those that are directly related to Arab issues.

[Reporter] There are developments in the Lebanese arena. Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi met yesterday. What are the results?

[Khaddam] You know that we back the Lebanese legitimacy and support the national accord charter which was endorsed by the Lebanese. The Lebanese state is now working to implement the clauses of that charter. It has embarked on significant steps, primarily the amendment of the Lebanese Constitution and the endorsement of the constitutional reform. It is now taking practical steps to reinstate the state's authority over Lebanese territories and restore law and order. We will provide every assistance that Lebanon might request.

[Reporter] Mr. Vice President: What is the latest about the meetings of the Egyptian-Syrian joint higher committee? We know that the first meeting will be held in Cairo and the second in Damascus.

[Khaddam] Just a few moments ago I was discussing this matter with my brother Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. I believe that the meeting will be held soon, because the two sides have made the necessary arrangements for that meeting.

[Reporter] In light of the current changes and the hardline stands adopted by the Iraqi leadership, do you expect any relaxation in the Gulf crisis?

[Khaddam] In fact, we all hope Iraq will withdraw from Kuwait in accordance with the Arab summit resolutions, so that relaxation can be brought about. [end recording]

Received by Mubarak; Comments

NC3009114090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in the presidential office at noon today. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish attended the meeting.

Following the 90-minute meeting, Khaddam said: I would like to express my pleasure at meeting with President Husni Mubarak and at the fraternal atmosphere which prevailed throughout the meeting. He added: During the meeting, I conveyed a message to President Mubarak from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad on the situation in the Arab arena in general and the explosive situation in the Gulf.

Khaddam added that views were exchanged on the various possibilities and on ways to continue to coordinate the two countries' views, with a view to serving the higher national interests and bringing about a full implementation of the Arab resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

To a question on Syria's preparedness to send more troops to Saudi Arabia, taking into account the fact that Syria is involved in a confrontation with Israel, Khaddam said that President Hafiz al-Asad announced in his speech two weeks ago that Syria is prepared to send more troops if Saudi Arabia requests it.

He said: We can send additional troops. However, the matter is up to our brothers and if they need these troops. He noted that sending Syrian troops to Saudi Arabia will not affect Syria's capabilities, because it is capable of honoring its commitments against Israel and to brother Arabs at the same time.

To a question on President al-Asad's recent talks in Iran, and whether Iran has assured him of its commitment to the economic blockade against Iraq, Khaddam said: The joint statement which was issued in both countries after President al-Asad's visit, the news conference which was held in Tehran, as well as the news conference which was held in New York by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, all confirm our brother Iranians' full and strict commitment to implementing the UN Security Council resolution.

Khaddam added that the Iranians make a clear distinction between ending the Iraq-Iran war and the issue of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. They view the Gulf issue in the same way we do. Syrian and Iranian views are identical on the issues of the region in general, and particularly on the Gulf issue, he stressed.

Khaddam replied to another question on whether chances for peace are meager as far as the Gulf issue is concerned, or whether the issue can be resolved peacefully. He said: Since the early hours of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, every Arab must have hoped whole-heartedly that the invasion had not occurred. Then, they hoped Iraq would withdraw and pave the way for restoring cohesion in the Arab arena. At this moment, he said, every Arab certainly hopes Iraq will comply with and implement the resolution passed by Arab summit held recently in Cairo, thereby paving the way for the restoration of peace and security in the region.

To a question on the economic embargo and the chances of its bringing peace, Khaddam said: Naturally we had all wanted the Iraqi Government to be responsive to Arab and international calls by withdrawing from Kuwait and, consequently avoiding such an embargo and averting the possibility of military intervention. We still hope Iraq will withdraw from Kuwait in response to the Arab nation's resolution. Khaddam asked: How feasible is that blockade? This can be determined only by studying available facts.

Responding to another question on the future U.S. security arrangements for the region and his own views on that, Khaddam said the security of the region is the responsibility of the region's states. Similarly, he said, Arab security is the responsibility of Arab states. Hence, any security arrangements in the region must be the responsibility of the region's countries.

On his views on the current conditions in the region, Khaddam said there is no doubt that the current Arab situation is sad, painful, and causes concern. Before the devastation of Kuwait, there were Arab efforts to create a better Arab atmosphere and remove Arab disputes and problems in order to achieve two things: first, to bolster Arab national security; and second, to attain Arab solidarity vis-a-vis international changes. We all remember that Baghdad's summit was held under these two slogans. Unfortunately, despite what has been said about the resolutions of that summit—that they succeeded in laying the foundations for Arab national security and for paving the way for Arab solidarity—we saw that this national security received a powerful blow.

Khaddam noted that there had been a good opportunity to remove differences and resolve Arab problems. It was decided, as we all know, to hold a summit meeting in Cairo in November to clear the atmosphere prevailing in Arab relations. Regrettably enough, the devastation of Kuwait turned things upside down and created a new situation which further intensified Arab disputes. This will certainly reflect negatively on the future of the Arab nation, as well as on the Arab situation in general.

He said: We had hoped rational thinking and proper orientation would prevail with other people, making them remove the causes that initially led to the current Arab situation and to the tension and the complicated conditions resulting from the Iraqi invasion.

Asked if Syria feels secure with the present Iraqi regime even if the latter responds to peace, 'Abd-al-Halim

Khaddam said: No one worries Syria and no one worries Syria's security. Syria and its security are worried only about the general Arab fate which is threatened with these divisions and conflicts that are seriously exhausting resources. Syria does not determine any regime's nature because this is determined by those concerned in any country. Therefore there is simply nothing that worries us, neither this nor that country. What worries us is the Arab fate.

Replying to another question about the foreign presence in the Gulf, he said that the excuse that some people are using for the foreign presence in the Gulf—as support because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait—is a false, baseless, and fruitless one. No one in the Arab world wants to see a foreigner on Arab territory. He then asked: Who has brought in this foreigner and who will bring in foreigners if such an event reoccurs in the Arab arena? The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the concern and fears it has created in the fraternal Gulf countries forced them to look for ways to ensure their national security. He added: We must eliminate the cause and Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait, and then there will be no justification for the foreign presence. If this presence remains, then we all must end it one way or another. But to say that the problem lies in the foreign presence and to ignore the fact that an Arab country has been destroyed and its people dispersed defies reason, facts, and truth.

Regarding the economic consequences suffered by countries who were hurt by the invasion of Kuwait, 'Abd-al-Halim said that the invasion itself was a catastrophe and every catastrophe has consequences. We should not expect a catastrophe without consequences. The economic effects are the natural outcome of this catastrophe. There is talk now about helping the affected countries and we hope that there will be help. The Arab countries would most certainly have a role in this.

About the retraction of some Arab countries who supported Iraq, he said: We hope that everyone will see the facts as they are and that stands are not taken in light of some minor and selfish interests but on the basis of pan-Arab and national interests. From this premise, we hope that some brothers will review their stands. If they do so they will be helping Iraq. The adage "support your brother whether he is right or wrong" means that we must support him if he is wrong by preventing him from being wrong. When all the Arab countries oppose the invasion, they will then be supporting Iraq by preventing it from being wrong because the circle of wrong cannot continue or be limited in time and space.

Regarding Syria's view of the French initiative, he said: The French initiative, if it can be called so, varies somewhat from the Security Council resolutions. We are in fact expecting an explanation of this initiative but have not received it yet.

Regarding the Palestinian initiative on the Gulf crisis, Khaddam said sarcastically: Is there a Palestinian initiative? We believe that the initiative the Palestinians can make is to fight for their cause which is in Palestine and not in Kuwait.

Regarding Syria's next moves, he said; Our action will be done in full and close cooperation with Egypt. It will be a joint action by Damascus, Cairo, and the other Arab countries to contain the damages that have affected the Arab nation and to try to correct the Arab situations. As to Israel's claims that there is a Syrian-Israeli rapprochement and a meeting between the foreign ministers of Syria and Israel, Khaddam said: This talk is not true [This last sentence, beginning with: As to Israel's..., was found to be deleted in a version of Syrian Vice President Khaddam's statements following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo transmitted by Damascus SANA in Arabic at 1530 GMT on 30 September].

Conveys Iranian Conference Plan

JN3009124990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam this morning. Khaddam conveyed to him a message from President Hafiz al-Asad, which according to Khaddam's statements, dealt with the overall Arab developments, foremost being the Gulf crisis and the results of the Syrian president's visit to Tehran.

Informed Egyptian sources stressed to our radio that al-Asad's message emphasized Iran's rejection of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and its rejection of foreign presence and any military coordination with Washington on the Gulf crisis. In his message, al-Asad referred to an Iranian proposal to hold a regional conference to be attended by Iraq and Kuwait and some other neighboring states in order to peacefully resolve the two countries' differences. He also stressed Iran's abidance by the UN Security Council resolutions calling for a blockade on Iraq and its acceptance of the idea of security arrangements at the end of the Gulf crisis provided that they are confined to the region's states.

Al-Asad's message also urged Egypt to ask the U.S. Administration to expedite the dispatch of weapons and military aid agreed upon during James Baker's visit to Damascus. Al-Asad also requested Egypt's approval of military coordination with Syria against any possible Iraqi threats. He also indicated that Iran demonstrated a positive position on his mediation efforts to improve political relations between Egypt and Iran. He said Iran expressed its readiness to begin direct talks with Egypt in order to discuss the issue of Egyptian prisoners of war and bilateral relations. Khaddam told President Mubarak that his country is ready to host these meetings. He also briefed him on the Lebanese developments and expressed his country's readiness to extend all kinds of aid to the Lebanese Government in order to spread its legitimacy over the entire country.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC3009151790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam left Cairo this afternoon following a visit of several hours during which he delivered a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Mubarak.

Yemeni Presidential Envoy Brings Message

NC2909101190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0928 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—Rashid Muhammad Thabit, Yemeni minister of state for Council of Representatives affairs and special envoy of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, arrived in Cairo from Sanaa this morning on a visit that will last several days.

Upon arrival, the Yemeni minister said he is bringing a message from the Yemeni president to his brother President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the Arab region and bilateral relations. The message confirms the Yemeni president's eagerness to further strengthen ties with his brother President Husni Mubarak and expresses Yemen's appreciation of the Egyptian role in backing the Yemeni revolution and strengthening the republican system. [passage omitted]

Received by Mubarak

JN2909181290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received Rashid Muhammad Thabit, Yemeni minister of state for Council of Representatives affairs, at noon today. This is the first visit by a senior Yemeni official to Cairo since the tension arose between the two countries in the wake of the recent emergency Arab summit in Cairo. The Yemeni minister delivered to President Mubarak a letter from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih affirming that his country is eager to maintain its relations with Egypt. He also denied any harassment of Egyptian workers in Yemen.

In the letter, President Salih told President Mubarak of his country's acceptance of the return of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo. The Yemeni president also said in his letter, whose contents were not fully disclosed by the Egyptian sources, that he hopes the Arab nation will overcome its current tribulation, and expressed the need to work for a peaceful solution that will spare the region the specter of war and destruction.

Meanwhile, reports were circulated in Cairo that a new batch of Egyptian forces has left for the Gulf. The force, estimated at around 1,000 soldiers and officers, will bring the number of Egyptian forces there to 15,000. Most of these forces are in the Hafr al-Batin area.

Ends Visit, Comments on Ties

NC3009193190 Cairo MENA in English 1922 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept 30 (MENA)—Rashid Muhammad Thabit, Yemeni minister of state for cabinet affairs, left here tonight back home following a two-day visit to Egypt during which he handed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. In a pre-departure statement, the Yemeni official said that President Mubarak cited the depth of relations binding the two Egyptian and Yemeni peoples.

He added that he told President Mubarak that Yemen was keen on maintaining relations with Egypt and that all Egyptians working in Yemen were much respected and appreciated by Yemenis. On current relations with Saudi Arabia, he said that his country was keen on keeping good relations with Arabia.

British Defense Staff Official Arrives 29 Sep

NC2909175890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—General Richard Vincent, the vice chief of the British Defense Staff, arrived in Cairo from London this afternoon on a two-day visit during which he will meet with Gen. Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production.

The British official is scheduled to have talks tomorrow, Sunday, with Gen. Abu-Talib and Lt. Gen. Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, Armed Forces chief of staff.

He was received at the airport by Major General Mahmud Fu'ad, commander of the central military zone.

Holds Talks on Cooperation

NC3009133290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, received Gen. Richard Vincent, the vice chief of the British Defense Staff, and the accompanying delegation now visiting Egypt. Joint bilateral military cooperation was discussed at the meeting. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0110071790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2027 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—General Richard Vincent, vice chief of the British joint defense staff, left Cairo this afternoon after a two-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by Gen. Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production.

The Egyptian and British officials discussed the relations of joint military cooperation between the two countries and reviewed the situation in the Gulf.

The British official was seen off at the airport by a number of commanders of the Egyptian armed forces.

Sudan Official Denies Iraqi Missiles Deployed

NC3009145290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—Colonel Salah-al-Din Karrar, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit of several days during which he will attend the celebrations marking the Prophet's birthday. Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub was on hand to receive him.

Speaking upon arrival, the Sudanese official stressed that the Sudanese people view relations between Egypt and Sudan as divinely inspired and said these relations cannot be altered by human beings because they are eternal. He added that it is natural for relations among members of a family to suffer setbacks, but said there will definitely be no problems as long as the belief in the existence of the single family remains.

Col. Karrar denied reports about the presence of Iraqi missiles in Sudan targeted against Egypt. He stressed that throughout its history, Sudan has never threatened Egypt's security; on the contrary, Sudan has always helped defend Egypt with its limited resources and history provides examples of this.

The Sudanese official expressed regret that there are seditious parties who are trying to wreck the eternal relations between Egypt and Sudan. He said: Egypt has interests in Sudan and vice versa. We are looking for an Egyptian role in all that is taking place in Sudan, the role of partner and not that of mediator or neutral party.

Regarding Sudan's stand on the Gulf crisis resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Col. Karrar asserted that his country opposes the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and supports Kuwait's leadership and legitimacy as was declared by RCC Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir at the summit conference. He added that Sudan expressed reservations about the condemnation of Iraq because it believes that such condemnation does not serve the efforts to find a solution to this crisis. It also expressed reservations about the presence of foreign forces because it believes that they complicate matters and exacerbate situations that may be harmful for the Arab region. He stressed that his country is seeking an initiative to resolve the crisis within an Arab framework that would ultimately lead to Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy.

President Mubarak Sends Cable to Kuwaiti Amir

NC2809075690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 27 Sep (MENA)—Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah has received a cable from President Husni Mubarak. The text of the cable follows:

I have received the kind cable that you sent while crossing the airspace of your second homeland, Arab Egypt. I wish to express my thanks and appreciation for the noble fraternal feelings contained in your cable toward me and your brothers in Egypt. Your brothers in Egypt harbor the sincerest feelings of amity and appreciation for you.

I wish to reiterate, dear brother, that Egypt will spare no efforts in support of right and legitimacy in accordance with its principles and values which aim to safeguard the unity and cohesion of the entire Arab nation.

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From Al-Qadhdhafi

NC2909170490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a telephone call from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi as part of the consultations between the two countries.

Italian Defense Minister Arrives for Talks

NC2809210890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—Italian Defense Minister Virginio Rognoni arrived in Cairo this evening at the head of a military delegation for a two-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, the Italian minister will hold talks with military officials. These talks are intended to bolster military cooperation between the two countries.

In an arrival statement, the Italian defense minister said the principal objective of the visit is to discuss military cooperation between Egypt and Italy and to discuss the serious situation resulting from the Gulf crisis and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He added that the visit is also aimed at coordinating efforts between the two countries in view of Egypt's prominent position in the Arab world and internationally. The Italian minister expressed his country's appreciation for Egypt's position toward the Gulf crisis and the current grave developments. We will also discuss every possible means for a peaceful solution to the crisis, he added.

The Italian defense minister went on to say that the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf region could constitute an objective factor for establishing peace and that the United States is cooperating with the EC to achieve this.

The Italian guest described the European countries' position toward the Arab countries, particularly Egypt, as positive and serious, adding that his visit to Egypt is intended to coordinate efforts between the two countries in view of Egypt's position in the Arab world and internationally.

Military talks between the two countries, under Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and defense minister, and the Italian defense minister are due to open here tomorrow morning. [passage omitted]

Comments on Talks, Departs

NC2909084390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—Italian Defense Minister Virginio Rognoni has stated that he and Lieutenant General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, discussed military cooperation between Egypt and Italy.

Following the talks held today, the Italian minister said they discussed the Gulf crisis and international efforts to overcome the problems resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He expressed the hope that these efforts will culminate in a solution.

In a similar statement, Lt. Gen. Abu-Talib commended cooperation between Egypt and Italy, adding that it covers armament, training, and all other military aspects. He added that the talks focused on the current situation in the Gulf.

The Italian minister left Cairo before noon today, following a two-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Commander on Mission of National Forces in Gulf

NC0110090190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Staff Major General Muhammad 'Ali Bilal, commander of the Egyptian forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has stated that the Egyptian forces' mission is to strengthen and increase Saudi Arabian defense capabilities and to defend it against any attack on its borders on the basis of the resolutions of the recent Arab summit in Cairo.

Speaking at a news conference he held last night in the Hafr al-Batin area in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he said that the Egyptian forces are operating under Saudi command. He added that the Egyptian fighter is highly trained and is ready to operate under all conditions, particularly in the desert, and to face all sorts of chemical or even more dangerous weapons possessed by any army in the world.

AL-AHRAM on Foreign Troops' Ultimate Goal

NC3009073190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 30 Sep 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline " The Smell of Oil," AL-AHRAM's editorial says that one of the stated goals of the Western powers' race to mass troops in the Gulf is to protect oil resources, upon which life in the West depends. Allowing too much time to find a peaceful solution rather than confronting the aggression is intended only to protect oil resources against hazzards. The paradox here, however, is very clear: Protecting these resources by massing troops in light of the growing Iraqi threats to bombard them is about to light the fuse of war, which endangers these same resources. It seems, however, that the real goal of this calculated risk is to prevent Saddam from embarking on such a reckless venture.

The paper notes that there is a goal far beyond the protection of oil resources, that is, trying to control oil prices after the crisis has eased. It seems that there is an intention to completely prevent Arabs and their fellow OPEC members from monopolizing oil prices, particularly after the calamities triggered by both the October and the Iraq-Iran wars. Here comes the third crisis of its kind, which threatens oil resources more seriously and with a broader scope. It is apparently unacceptable to the West for oil and its prices to be guarded or controlled by anyone other than itself. Western capitals are asserting that prices should be acceptable to the West and not merely reasonable, as producing countries would think them reasonable. This indicates that the post-crisis phase will witness overt or covert interference from Western capitals in the pricing process.

Syrian Delegation Leaves; Communique Issued

NC2809182690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—Workers of Egypt and Syria have underlined their condemnation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and called for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territories and the restoration of legitimacy and Kuwait's sovereignty over its territories.

This came in the joint communiqe which was signed today by Ahmad al-'Amawi, chairman of the Egyptian Federation of Trade Unions, and 'Izz al-Din Nasir, chairman of the Syrian General Federation of Labor Unions.

The communique stressed the need to protect the rights of Arabs who worked in Kuwait. It also stressed the importance of expanding bilateral cooperation, exchange visits of youth and working women's delegations, and cooperation in workers' education. It noted the importance of coordination and consultation between the two federations on issues related to joint Arab action, particularly in international and Arab organizations.

The communique was signed shortly before the departure of 'Izz al-Din Nasir and his delegation for Damascus at the end of a five-day visit.

Kuwaiti Information Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC2909183190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Sabah arrived in Cairo this evening. He was met at the airport by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs; and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Kandari, Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo.

Libyan Navy Official Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2809180890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—Staff Colonel 'Abd-al-Latif Ahmad al-Shakshuki, chief of staff of the Libyan naval forces, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo for home at noon today following a four-day visit. While in Egypt, the Libyan official held talks with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production. He also held talks with a number of officials at the Defense Ministry on cooperation between the two countries.

Soviet Delegation Arrives for Talks on Relations

NC3009214090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—A high-ranking Soviet delegation headed by Benyamin Aliadin, member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet [name and title as received], arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a two-day visit to Egypt. The delegation includes Alek Fomin, Central Committee press counselor for Middle East affairs [name and title as received].

The delegation will hold several meetings with Egyptian officials on strengthening relations between the two countries.

Al-Sharif, Libyan Official Discuss Cooperation

NC3009190090 Cairo MENA in English 1826 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept 30 (MENA)—Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif and Libyan Secretary of Information Affairs Rajab Abu-Dabbus have discussed means of consolidating bilateral cooperation between Egypt and Libya in all fields of information.

Al-Sharif said he also discussed with Abu-Dabbus means of achieving integration between Egypt and Libya through joint action.

Portuguese Military Official Meets Abu-Talib

NC3009143290 Cairo MENA in English 1356 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 30 (MENA)—Minister of Defence and Military Production General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib received the chief of staff of the Portuguese Air Force and his accompanying delegation.

They discussed military cooperation and exchange of know-how between the Egyptian and Portuguese Air Forces.

The Portuguese official and his delegation left here this afternoon winding up a three-day visit to Egypt.

Paper Says Shevardnadze To Visit Iraq With Plan

JN2809153090 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 26 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] An informed Soviet source has said that Shevardnadze is preparing for an Arab tour that will take him to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Morocco beginning next week. Cairo received a message about this the day before yesterday. Soviet sources indicate that there are signs of an Arab and international plan for a solution that provides for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait while maintaining Iraq's petroleum rights. Iraq insists on dismissing the al-Sabah family and on setting up a unified Arab petroleum organization, but the United States and Saudi Arabia reject these demands. Cairo has not commented on the message and the Moroccan king has agreed to discuss the matter.

The same source said that King Husayn will fly to Morocco this week for talks with King Hassan. In the meantime, eight Soviet envoys will leave Moscow for eight Arab capitals.

In another development, the Soviet sources said the Soviet leadership has set as a condition for the restoration of relations with Israel that the latter approve the international conference and refrain from provoking Iraq.

Saddam Accused of Distorting Muslim Image

NC0110083990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Commentary by Mamduh Isma'il: "He Speaks the Language of Islam While He Ravages the Kuwaiti People"]

[Text] It is hard for every Muslim to see Iraqi ruler Saddam distort the image of Arabs and Muslims on a dear anniversary—the anniversary of the prophet's birthday. It is difficult for every Muslim to see Saddam exploiting this holy religious occasion to conceal what he really is, his ideas, and his beliefs which are completely against Islam and Muslims. Saddam, who is now assuming the role of a faithful dervish as he speaks the language of religion on this fragrant occasion, stirs the tragic sentiments of the Arab and Islamic nations as they remember that an Arab Muslim people in Kuwait has been displaced and dispersed by a ruler who claims to be good and pious—that Muslim people have been subdued by an Arab brother and neighbor because he coveted their assets and oil resources.

On this holy occasion, Saddam talks about spreading good in the world, establishing justice among the people, and shunning evil, while he is fully aware that since he grabbed and assumed power, he has been shedding the blood of his supporters and opponents alike and wreaking havoc in the world. He is also fully aware that he should be the last person to talk about justice among the people, because justice is one of Islam's sublime values. Can what he did to the Kuwaiti poeple be called justice?

As for shunning evil, the looting, plundering, violations of honor, and assassinations Iraq's Saddam has been carrying out are very evil. As for his talk about jihad, it is boring and must be rejected because the illegal and armed invasion, plundering, and looting of Muslims' property is a complete distortion of jihad as an Islamic value. Now that Saddam has donned the cloak of faith and assumed the role of dervish, however, we must ask him: Why have you let hundreds of thousands of Muslims roam the desert, thirsty, hungry, and exposed to slow death? Is this the Islam you talk about? Has what you have done to them and to the Kuwaiti people brought you peace of mind? We believe that the crimes you have committed have satisfied your malice and thirst for blood. We believe that all your attempts to deceive the Arab and Islamic peoples by masquerading behind religion are doomed to fail. They are a flimsy, worn-out, and tattered cover that will never conceal your aggression and invasion of Kuwait which is the main issue, and which prompts you to pursue acts of deception and charlatanism to justify your crimes against humanity.

It is reassuring that the more Iraq's ruler Saddam speaks or makes statements, the more his contradictions materialize and his credibility plummets. He speaks about the history of the prophet while he rejects what he terms compromises. He then calls for an Arab solution, but only after the withdrawal of the multinational forces from the Gulf. Finally, he declares that the situation in Kuwait will not return to what it was on 2 August, which means that he refuses to withdraw from Kuwait.

So that we will not to be dragged into peripheral labyrinths that would divert us from the original issue, we can sum up the entire situation two months since the barbaric Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as follows:

1. The whole world now stands against Saddam Husayn, condemning the invasion and poised to impose legitimacy, peacefully or by war, no matter how much Saddam raises the tone of his military agitation. Saddam's realization of this fact prompts him to fumble, contradict himself, and make threats here and there.

2. We now find that some of those who supported Saddam at the beginning of the invasion because their vision was blurred and their minds strayed from the right path, are now retreating one by one after having lost everything and after their support for Iraq's ruler has been internationally judged as erroneous. They have started to absolve themselves of Saddam's actions and to declare their commitment to international legitimacy.

3. The most important point is Saddam's own stand. He has imagined himself as a leader and a national hero who can use his military prowess to fight the entire world. To obtain Kuwait, he turned against the Iraqi people when he renounced Shatt al-Arab, which is a national goal of the helpless Iraqi people. He is suffering from an economic blockade unprecedented in history. He is fully aware that his withdrawal from Kuwait would shift the battle to within Iraq, and it would be between him and the Iraqi people—a battle which would turn into a public trial that would topple Saddam and his entire regime.

It is for all these reasons that he is clinging to Kuwait with the last Iraqi soldier and citizen. Saddam no longer separates himself and the Iraqi people: They will either reach a safe shore together or perish together. Out of our concern for Iraq—people and entity—we say that it is the duty of all the honest Arabs and advocates of peace all over the world to seriously look for a practical and realistic way out of the enormously difficult situation in which Saddam has involved Iraq and the Arab nation. Such a solution should be based on legitimacy, and it should be one that would simultaneously encourage the Iraqi ruler to retreat.

We believe that the Iraqi media can surely turn the situation into a victory. The media can portray the invasion as a successful demonstration of Iraqi prowess in a battle in which the Iraqi army has done well. The Iraqi media can also publish millions of pictures of Marshal Saddam as he receives the forces returning from Kuwait. Thus, this tragic chapter would end peacefully and a black period in the history of Iraq and the Arab nation would end.

Columnist on Postcrisis Gulf, Arab Situation

JN3009093790 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Sep 90 pp 1, 7

["Calmly" column by Ibrahim Nafi': "After the Smoke of the Battle"]

[Text] Whether through war or peace, the Gulf crisis will soon be resolved. Kuwait will soon return to the Arab map and Saddam will withdraw from it. We hope from the bottom of our hearts that the peaceful solution is the one that puts an end to this tense period. Saddam, under the effects of the sea and air siege, will, before the decisive battle starts, propose a new and serious initiative in which he will agree to withdraw from Kuwait and save his people, country, army, and the entire region from destruction and ruination. We hope that the option of war will not be the final cure for the misery we are living if Saddam continues to be reckless, sinful, and arrogant. And we hope that the shouts that the beginning of November would be an appropriate date for the crushing battle, or that January or February would be more appropriate for desert war from the Western countries' military point of view, are not the only solution to this crisis.

Yes, we do not wish for either the November, January, or February wars, but we hope that the voice of reason and respect for international will triumph in the final analysis under the pressure of international unanimity to condemn the crime of invading Kuwait and reject the creation of a forced and unaccepted status quo which is imposed on the region and the whole world, especially since the leader of this sly invasion is a person whose next steps and adventures cannot be predicted, apart from his tyrannical ambitions and arrogance that stop at nothing.

Whether the voice of reason triumphs, or the voice of deterrence and war wins, the Gulf crisis will soon end and will signal the start of a new stage in the region after which, in my opinion, Arab affairs cannot return to what they were before the crisis exploded. There will be changes and differences dictated by the events which ignited the crisis, and by its consequences.

Therefore, in my opinion, the time is right to discuss events in the Arab region after the crisis ends, either through war or through peace. This is not a figment of imagination or speeding up of events. Very often, a postcrisis situation is discussed, studied, and decided during the crisis and during the roar of the battle. In fact this is necessary, since it prepares the mind for the need for change and removal of the triggers that contributed toward igniting the crisis, or which some used as a pretext to ignite it.

With this concept in mind, I begin my discussion by saying the following: First, during the crisis, some have spoken about an economic imbalance between the rich and poor Arab countries and about the distribution of Arab wealth. Although we admit the existence of such an imbalance, we reject the recourse to war, invasion, or the use of force to redress such an imbalance, or to attain economic balance between the poor and the rich in the Arab region. The fact that we admit the existence of such an imbalance does not mean that we deny the role assumed by the Arab Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and their financial assistance to poor Arab countries and some developing countries through bilateral assistance agreements, Arab development funds, or through international financial institutions such as the IMF and World Bank. They have provided substantial contributions even though some view these contributions as insufficient. We must also admit that these countries are free to first use their resources to achieve the prosperity of their own people and then use the surplus to help other people.

In spite of all this we say the following: The post-Gulf crisis era will inevitably witness a very different approach on how to use this Arab financial surplus, a new use that will forcefully become deeply rooted in the fabric of the daily life of the poor Arab people and that will make the Arab people feel that they have a national interest in preserving Arab wealth and its continued exploitation by the countries which own it. This is because some practices which used to occur before the Gulf crisis have given Saddam what he needs to incite the man of the street in the poor countries against some Gulf countries and to accuse them of not having worked to achieve the required social cohesion and solidarity. I am fully confident that the new state of affairs will result in a more balanced and more serious and sincere approach to the problems of others.

That is why I believe that this is the appropriate time, even in the midst of the crisis, for the Gulf countries to start with other major Arab countries to study and discuss new bases for enhancing the use of Arab financial surpluses in the development of non-oil-producing Arab countries and in the settlement of their financial and economic problems, whether through the establishment of a new Arab investment fund, or the allocation of a certain percentage of Arab oil revenues for financing development projects in poor Arab countries in accordance with their needs, how seriously they approach development, and how well they manage these Arab funds.

The Arab people who will benefit from the Arab funds that will be channeled toward development projects and combating backwardness, are the only safety valve that will prevent the appearance of new adventurers who conceal their real ambitions of swallowing up the Gulf countries under flamboyant slogans of a fair distribution of wealth and social solidarity between the rich and poor Arabs.

This also requires the nonpetroleum Arab states to provide full guarantees for the protection of Arab investments on their territory and to prepare the right atmosphere to receive and benefit from these investments and to provide investors with sufficient facilities, the simplest of which is to guarantee their right to own houses and refrain from discrediting them for their private life.

This leads me to another point about which I think the time is right to discuss. We may as well use the disaster to address it and then move to build new foundations for intra-Arab relations that would avert the kind of split seen on the Arab street over the invasion of Kuwait.

This point is the way we relate to each others as Arabs. The invasion of Kuwait, as a notion, has been universally rejected by the Arabs. Even those who have taken Saddam's side have condemned the invasion, albeit with certain reservations. For instance, they said Kuwait did not grant citizenship for persons born in the country or who had domiciled there for 30 years, using the argument that they were not of Kuwaiti origin. By contrast, whoever is born in a European nation is granted its citizenship along with the attendant rights of work, residence, and property ownership, plus the right to conduct business for persons who have domiciled there for a specified number of years. It is no longer acceptable for the internal situation in the Gulf states to continue to be based on the total separation between first-class citizens enjoying all rights, and massive numbers of expatriates enjoying no rights except what they obtain in wages, material advantages, or services.

The same goes for Gulf states other than Kuwait in terms of discrimination between their nationals and other Arab workers. Indeed, the United States gives nationals of certain Arab states multiple-use visas valid for five years, when these same people are hard put to get a visitor's visa for a single trip to a Gulf state.

All this has contributed to the emergence of some negative responses and slackness regarding the invasion of Kuwait by an Arab minority, despite this minority's full condemnation and rejection of the invasion. The time is now ripe to change all this, to set new bases of equality among the Arabs and the sons of the Gulf states regarding rights and privileges, and to achieve equality among the Arab and foreign workers in the Gulf states, although justice necessitates giving the Arab workers more privileges than foreigners, and not the contrary. It is also high time that we looked at the entire Arab region following the end of this crisis to correct mistakes, guarantee its peoples' freedom of expression and their rights to political liberties and constitutional governments, and to fairly distribute responsibilities among its sons. The Arab region after the Gulf crisis will not be same as it was before. And the wise Arab rulers should comprehend this fact as of now and get ready to cope with the period after the crisis. Moreover, the new situation created by the invasion of Kuwait will not be confined to merely rearranging matters, but will inevitably lead to the rearrangement of the Arab region. Then, we have another more important point; namely, the vacuum that will occur in the region after the end of the crisis. We all know that when it ends, the multinational military forces will leave the region for several reasons, some of which are:

First: All of us in the Arab and Islamic worlds reject the presence of these forces for a single day after this presence becomes unneeded.

Second: Because the states to which these forces belong cannot financially afford to continue with this huge buildup. I even believe that some European states will immediately withdraw from the region without waiting for permission once the situation in the Gulf is settled.

So, what is the solution for guaranteeing the continuation of stability and achieving Arab security? In my assessment, the solution lies in a deterrent Arab force capable of confronting the dangers threatening the Gulf and Arab regions from any direction. This capable Arab force could be a joint Saudi-Arab force that possesses huge military ammunition and no less than 10-12 equipped ilitary divisions. We should start planning for this force as of today. Moreover, I do not rule out that after the end of the crisis the region will witness joint Arab defense agreements among Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states on the one hand, and some Arab states, concerning which history and old and recent experiences have proved their sincere faith in their Arab principles and their lack of any expansionist intentions, on the other.

In my opinion, this is the appropriate alternative that will make us dispense with seeking the help of foreign deterrent forces in the future. This is the right time to discuss all these points to prepare for the stage that will follow the return of Kuwait, a stage which will certainly come, whether through peace or war, although we hope it will be peacefully and not through the destruction of the entire region. The time of military pacts to fill the political or military vacuum in our Arab region is over and outmoded. Linking the Arab region's security to any foreign arrangements is no use to us.

Article on Saddam's 'Gift of a Lifetime' to Israel

PM2709135590 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
20 Sep 90 p 12

[Article by Al-Sayyid Abu-al-Naja: "Addressing the Mind"]

[Text] Beware of Israel. We Arabs are preoccupied with the Gulf crisis and with such developments as the restoration of Iraqi-Iranian diplomatic relations and the interpretation of the blockade against Iraq as something which does not include food and medicine. We are worried about the divisions within the Arab League and about the attitude of certain Arab states to other Arab states, about the attitude of Abu-Nidal's and George Habash's Palestinians toward Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinians, and about the infighting between Iranian Shiites and Syrian Shiites in Lebanon.

The United States and Britain are concerned about their nationals in Iraq and Kuwait, and are preoccupied with building up their forces in preparation for war with Iraq if they cannot reach an understanding with Iraq peacefully on its withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy there.

The Soviet Union is bargaining with the United States on alignment with it or mediation in return for aid to revive its economy.

Every party is playing its own tune, but Egypt responded to the Security Council resolutions in return for nothing more than promises that it would be compensated for its losses resulting from the crisis, that its military debts to the United States would be written off, and that the IMF would be persuaded to reschedule its other debts as far as possible—promises, not actions.

That sums up the positions of all parties on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Israel's suspicious silence, however, has not yet reached Arab minds. It exploited our preoccupations and our anger with Yasir 'Arafat by doubling the speed with which it is building homes in the West Bank and Jerusalem for thousands of immigrants from the Soviet Union, now that the intifadah has stopped and the Arabs have stopped financing it. When the Gulf crisis is over, a fait accompli will have imposed itself on the occupied territory as was previously the case in the

Golan and southern Lebanon, and the Palestinians will have no option but to emigrate from Israel or dissolve in it and become a rejected minority with the dream of achieving, at the most, some kind of autonomy which they previously rejected and having a few seats in the Knesset. The United States would then close its eyes to that reality and turn a deaf ear to the voices calling for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242 and what followed it.

Ugly as it is, that scenario does not provide a complete picture of what could happen. The United States may right now be busy supplying Israel with sophisticated military aircraft and arms to enable it, when necessary, to invade Jordan and Iraq with one strong blow that would knock them senseless and paralyze their movement, and so get the territory, oil, and water and fulfill a major part of the dream of a greater Israel extending from the Nile to the Euphrates, and the United States would seize the oilfields in the Gulf.

The situation demands, before it is too late, that the Arab League, after resolving its internal differences, reach agreement with the Security Council on a definition of the purpose of the military buildup in the Gulf.

Is it defense of the Saudi Kingdom's security, the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait, the return of the foreign hostages to their countries, and then withdrawal?

Is it establishment of a regional security force, as the United States has lately been saying?

Does the United States intend to seek from the Gulf states compensations other than what they have agreed to pay?

Does it intend to draw a new map of the Gulf or will it leave the borders of every state as they are now?

Will it give the Arabs a guarantee that Israel will be neutral on what has happened?

Saddam Husayn has given Israel the gift of a lifetime; he has caused the Arab world to explode from within, and the only thing that would save this world would be for Iraq to explode from within and for Saddam to fall.

We still remember what the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir said when he was apologizing for the 1967 defeat. He said: We expected the Israeli forces to come from the East, but they came from the West.

We do not want to say tomorrow that, while Israel was not a party to the conflict, it still surprised us with its intervention.

Beware of Israel.

Paper Calls on PLO Leaders To Step Down

NC2809093090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR calls on the current Palestinian leadership to step down and clear the way for new faces who can lead the Palestinian struggle cleanly and with dignity, free from those who are exploiting the pains of the Palestinian people.

In its editorial today, Friday, the paper notes that the Palestinian leadership lost its credibility and principles when it shamelessly assumed its disgraceful stand on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, stood behind Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and voiced support for the occupation of another state through force and the looting its wealths.

The paper asserts that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has shattered hopes of reviving the issue of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. It says that Yasir 'Arafat and his fellow PLO leaders confirmed the world's doubts about the stand of Palestinians all over the world when they adopted their current stand on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Article Asks 'Pause' in Assessing King Husayn

JN2809085890 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Sep 90 p 7

[Article by Ihsan Bakr: "Amman's Calculations"]

[Excerpts] Jordan, right or wrong. For many years, this country has been classified as one of the conservative regimes. Some people accused it of reactionaryism, and some went even further to accuse it of being an agent of the United States and imperialism. Now, 20 years later and after much water has passed in the River Jordan, alliances have been changed and calculations reconsidered. Party pluralism has been adopted as the system of government, and parties have emerged. The arena has become a mixture of everything; the capital, Amman, has become the mecca of all revolutionaries with all their affiliations and a base for the Islamic fundamentalist groups. And, after the United States was the ally and the backer, it became the enemy that supported and backed Israel. The atmosphere between Amman and Washington became disturbed.

When Iraqi President Saddam Husayn took the world by surprise by invading Kuwait on 2 August, I realized from the first moment that whatever stand it took, Jordan would have to pay for it. The country's circumstances and domestic conditions, as well as its neighbors, keep it face to face with danger. [passage omitted]

I recall I was in Amman following a famous tour made by the Jordanian monarch to the Gulf capitals to ask for financial aid. One of the ministers who accompanied the king on his tour told me: We were surprised by the king's asking one of his entourage to light a cigarette for him. We told him: But sir, you quit smoking; what happened?

The king said: Brother, I started smoking again after my return from the Gulf because I cannot put up with their negative attitudes.

We, for our part, do not wish to give any more details about the king's statement. However, we say that anyone who reads the Jordanian king's speech at the recent Baghdad summit, and his bitter complaint that he stands alone and that his country cannot shoulder all the burden, may find an explanation to the position that King Husayn has taken on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Jordan was one of the victims in Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait. Jordan has also suffered much from the kinfolk's harshness and injustice even before it suffered from the positions of the United States, which disavowed it, assumed a complete bias in favor of Israel, and did not make a single move toward a real solution to the Middle East crisis. More than 60 percent of Jordan's people are of Palestinian origin. They have suffered, and still suffer, the bitterness of occupation and Israel's barbarism and threats of "Jordan is the alternative homeland."

Jordan's problem lies in the fact that it has to do impossible, contradictory things at the same time. It must not cross the red lines with Israel; otherwise, the alternative homeland scheme will be executed. It also has to have good relations with its neighbors, the arch-enemies Syria and Iraq, and with Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn, with all their conflicts and disputes. If King Husayn takes a step in the direction of Damascus, then he has to take two in the direction of Baghdad. Jordan also has to protect its interests in the Gulf states, where over 600,000 Jordanians work. Finally, and above all, it must not enter into differences or contradictions with the Palestinian revolution; otherwise, it will enter into disputes with a principal portion of its people, and even with a number of Arab capitals.

Jordan, right or wrong. This country, which stands on the longest contact line with Israel, must live with the dilemmas and crises. It is being crushed by his nation's causes; it lives on top of a barrel of dynamite, and it must never burn its bridges with anyone. It is required to be the friend of all and must be reconciled on all fronts. Even if it succeeds in doing all this, it will still be accused of opportunism. In the sixties and seventies, it was accused of reactionaryism and of being an agent for the United States. In the nineties, when its policies changed and when it tried to achieved some kind of balance and hold all the ropes, it did not escape accusations. It has to persevere and never complain in public.

This was not meant to defend this small Arab country which is standing fast in the face of events. Neither was it meant to defend King Husayn. However, we only ask for a pause to assess Jordan's latest stand. People, take it easy on King Husayn. Let those without sin cast the first stone.

Cabinet Approves Bills on Assembly Elections

NC2909134590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] The cabinet met today under Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and approved three complementary bills that have the force of law. The bills recommend that members of the People's Assembly be elected individually. This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who added that these bills are: 1) a bill amending some provisions of People's Assembly law no. 38 of 1972; 2) a bill amending some provisions of law no. 73 of 1965 on the exercise of political rights; and 3) a bill specifying the People's Assembly election constituencies.

The information minister said that the president will issue a decree containing these bills which will have the force of law. He added that in discussing these bills, the cabinet stressed that amending the electoral system so it will be based on individual elections rather than a party list system is intended to create a definite and clear electoral system. Thus a new people's assembly will be elected free from any constitutional violations.

Price of Some Newspapers To Increase 1 Oct

NC2809065590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0221 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—AL-AHRAM, AL-AKHBAR, and AL-WAFD newspapers have decided to increase the price of copies from 20 to 25 piasters as of Monday, 1 October.

AL-JUMHURIYAH will maintain the current price of its copies at 20 piasters.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Gives Loyalty Day Address

LD3009211490

[Editorial report] Tripoli Television Service in Arabic at 1902 GMT on 30 September broadcasts live a 69-minute speech by Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to a gathering of Libyans at the Loyalty Hall in Surt Town on the Day of Loyalty in honor of the pioneers and creators, which will be commemorated every year on 30 September. Al-Qadhdhafi begins by welcoming those in attendence, noting that this year, Loyalty Day coincides with the birthday of the prophet. Al-Qadhdhafi says he has no objection to celebrations marking the prophet's birthday but adds that he opposes the merger of religion with politics, economics, industry, and other materialistic concerns. Mixing religion and politics will sabotage religion, he asserts. Dictators, Al-Qadhdhafi says, mix religion and politics to exploit creeds in order to rule the masses. If Islam turns into power, it will be a disaster. A prime minister should not rule in the name of Allah, he says.

Al-Qadhdhafi declares that Saudi Arabia has the right to call upon anyone to defend itself. Al-Qadhdhafi says that

King Fahd has told him: You (Al-Qadhdhafi) have said you will ally yourself with the devil to fight America. Al-Qadhdhafi adds that King Fahd also said: Saddam is stronger than me, and I ask for any help I can get. Al-Qadhdhafi says King Fahd may seek help as he chooses, but it is unacceptable for the holy places to come under the protection of Jews and Christians.

As he continues, Al-Qadhdhafi reiterates his stands on the presence of foreign troops in the land of Islam and condemns such a presence as a violation of Muslim sanctities. The Libyan leader adds that no Muslim can now be expected to perform the pilgrimage under the spears of U.S. and other troops. He adds that it is unreasonable to link Mecca to a political and military system, because religion should be kept above politics and the hypocrisy of diplomacy.

His speech is interrupted by emotional displays of loyalty and allegiance from some members of the audience. Al-Qadhdhafi stresses the need to honor and reward all those who have performed feats and served their country and mankind, irrespective of race, colour, or religion..

After Al-Qadhdhafi's speech, the live relay from Loyalty Hall continues. An unidentified Libyan man reads out the names of all those who have been awarded the Medal of the Great 1 September Revolution this year. The exhaustive list includes people who have gained fame for their deeds, creations, and stands for progress, against injustice and oppression in all its forms. Some foreigners are named, and one of them is Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general, who is honored for his anti-imperialist stands and courage. No other well-known foreign figure is mentioned.

Source Says Problems With Chad 'Ended'

LD3009214890 Tripoli JANA in English 1825 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, September 30, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—An informed source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation today announced that Great Jamahiryah ended on her part all the problems with Chad by referring the subject of dispute to the International Court of Justice.

The source said the Chadian opposition radio broadcasting from Libya has been closed down today 30th September.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Tunisian President Discuss Gulf

LD2909131990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Sep (JANA)—A long telephone conversation took place today between the brother leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of fraternal Tunisia. JANA learned that they discussed the imminent danger stemming from the problem of Kuwait during this long telephone conversation.

DPRK Vice Premier Meets Al-Qadhdafi

Brings Kim Il-song Message

LD2809131990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1125 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Sep 1990—The brother leader of the revolution received Kim Tal-hyon, DPRK vice premier, who conveyed to him a message from president Kim Il-song.

President Kim Il-song expressed in his message to the brother leader his satisfaction with the development of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the great Jamahiriyah and Democratic Korea. He also praised the gigantic civilization achievements [as received] which have been realized by the Libyan Arab people in all fields. He praised the people's continuous endeavor to strengthen their freedom in their land and build the new jamahiri society in which justice and equality prevail without hesitation.

President Kim Il-song also praised in his message the brave resistance of the Libyan Arab people in the face of all the hostile imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and plans that aim at impeding the march of progress in the great Jamahiriyah. He also affirmed the stance and solidarity of the DPRK on the side of the Libyan Arab people in facing all the imperialist conspiracies.

At the end of his message to the leader, President Kim Il-song affirmed his great eagerness to continue to develop and strengthen the joint cooperation between the great Jamahiriyah and the DPRK in all fields.

Signs Economic Accord

LD0110091390 Tripoli JANA in English 0818 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tumur [October] 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The minutes of the meetings of the Libyan Arab Korean Mixed Commission for Economic and Social Cooperation were signed last night in Tripoli.

The minutes provide for an accord on enhancing cooperation in many fields including in the economic sphere between Great Jamahiriyah and Democratic Korea.

The minutes were signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport and Kim Tal-hyon, the deputy prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Korea.

The deputy Korean prime minister expressed satisfaction at the results of his visit which may contribute towards the consolidation of relations between the two countries.

He lauded the colossal achievements realised in various fields in Great Jamahiriyah thanks to the Great al-Fatih Revolution.

PFLP Leader Habash Arrives in Tripoli 27 Sep

LD2809194690 Tripoli JANA in English 1639 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Al-Fatih [September] 28, Jamahiriyah News Agency—Dr. George Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday.

Commenting to JANA, he said that the Libyan initiative announced by the leader of the revolution on the 21st celebrated anniversary of the great al-fatih revolution for resolving the Gulf crisis represented a basis for an Arab solution to this crisis.

He added that this initiative aimed at reaching a solution based on blocking the causes that resulted in a critical situation and the explosion of the relation between Kuwait and Iraq.

News Cooperation Agreement Signed With Cuba

LD2909161790 Tripoli JANA in English 1431 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Havana, al fateh 29, Jamahirya News Agency—An accord for cooperation between the Jamahirya news agency and the Cuban news agency was signed in Havana last Thursday [27 September].

The accord provides for the exchange of news services between the two news agencies and the transmission of the news of the Latin American and African regions for the benefit of the two areas.

The accord also provides for the exchange of correspondents and setting up of joint training programmes.

Mauritania

Violations Against Blacks Said Increasing

AB2909151790 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] London, Oct 2 (AFP)—Blacks in Mauritania are "disappearing" and being killed by government foces "on a scale never before seen" in the West African country, Amnesty International said on Tuesday [23 September].

"A year ago, we said the persecution of Mauritania's black community had reached a peak. That appalling situation has now gone from bad to worse," the human rights watchdog commented.

In the River Senegal valley region, hundreds of Fulani-speakers, the chief targets of human rights violations over the past four years, have been arrested, persecuted and often killed on a very wide range of pretexts by security forces and militia, Amnesty said.

"People taken by troops have had their heads crushed with heavy stones or cut off and paraded around village centres to intimidate others," it reported. "Others have been shot dead simply for fishing while a curfew was in force."

Amnesty said that according to official statements, it seemed the repression of black Mauritanians was being justified by the authorities as a legitimate fight against insurrection or outside aggression, in a context of intensified activity by opposition groups which make armed raids and recruit refugees.

"However, the actions of the security forces seem to be directed at unarmed civilians living in the villages," Amnesty noted. "In effect, one community is using the resources and power of the state to wage war against another community."

Blacks form about one-third of Mauritania's population, the majority being Moors of Arab/Berber stock.

Sudan

No Handling of U.S., UK Vessels From 1 Oct

JN2909204390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Sep (INA)—Yusuf Abu-Shamah, secretary-general of the Sudan Federation of Workers' Trade Unions [SFWTU], has announced that the SFWTU will carry out the resolution adopted by the Arab transportation union to ban loading and unloading U.S. and British aircraft and ships from 1 October.

In a statement to INA, he said that the SFWTU informed its branches of the date of the implementation, which will also cover goods sent to the U.S. and British Embassies in Khartoum.

He added that the SFWTU will implement the resolutions of the emergency meeting of the Arab transportation union held recently in Tunis. He added: The implementation of the resolution shows the SFWTU's belief in the need to liberate the Arab and Islamic will, achieve dignity, and support Iraq.

He described the implementation of the resolution as reciprocal, and said it indicates the labor movement's ability to play a part in vital Arab causes.

Al-Bashir Leaves Khartoum for New York

EA2809095090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1027 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 27 Sep (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, left Khartoum this morning for New York, where he will address the current session of the UN General Assembly which is taking place there from 18

September to 18 December. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, who is heading the delegation, is accompanied by Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, foreign minister; and Prof. Muhammad al-Shakir al-Sarrah, health and social welfare minister.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir is also heading the Sudanese delegation to the International Conference on the Child, which will also be taking place in New York from 29 to 30 September. He will also meet a number of presidents of countries participating in the session and will brief them on the situation in the Sudan and will also review with them issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Khalifah on Peace Efforts; Diplomatic Agreements

EA2809211790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Excerpt] This morning, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and head of the Peace Department, addressed service day [as heard] in the attorney general's office. His excellency reviewed the government's efforts to establish peace in the country. He said these efforts were proceeding on the basis of trust, mutual concern, and dialogue. He affirmed that the resolutions and recommendations on peace arrived at by the National Peace Dialogue Conference were suitable for solving the problem. He said the government had drawn up a comprehensive strategy for solving the war problem in the south of the country. The strategy was based on informational diplomacy.

He explained that a nonaggression agreement has been signed by Sudan and Uganda. Similar agreements would be signed with Kenya and Ethiopia, he said, and the heads of these states would meet to sign the agreements in October.

Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah referred to the highway linking Kosti, (?Malakal), and Juba as a basis for the peace process, staving off the specter of war and reconstructing Sudan.

His excellency stressed that Sudan's position on the Gulf issue was distinguished by wisdom and avoiding condemnation in order to secure the region from the scourge of war and solve the issue under the Arab umbrella. [passage omitted]

Libyan Delegation on Four-Day Official Visit

EA3009103590 Khartoum SUNA in English 0955 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 29 September (SUNA)—A Libyan delegation headed by the assistant secretary-general of Tripoli municipality, Dr. Fatimah Haqiq, arrived here yesterday on an official visit during which a project of twinship between Tripoli and Khartoum would be signed. The delegation will make inspection visits during its four-day stay to the national capital's health, engineering, and education institutes, besides food security projects. The twinship project between Khartoum and Tripoli came in the framework of integration between Sudan and Libya. An official source at the Khartoum commission expressed hope in strengthening social, cultural, and services links between the two cities for achieving a comprehensive unity between the two countries.

Military Council Dismisses 86 Senior Judges

PM2809153090 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Sa'idah Ramadan: "86 Senior Sudanese Judges Dismissed"]

[Text] Sudan's ruling military council has committed another massacre against the judiciary. It was decided last week to dismiss 86 senior Sudanese judges. Foremost among those dismissed are Mahdi Muhammad Ahmad, deputy chief justice, and 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Nahhas, as well as eight Court of Appeal judges and 10 Supreme Court judges. In August 1989 Sudan's military regime decided to expel 57 judges for their opposition to the formation of special courts and the abolition of the ordinary courts. A special court comprises three Army officers and a magistrate, and its function is to investigate all crimes. The Sudanese regime also decided to stop the lawyers' role in advocacy before the courts, thus violating all international charters and laws.

Tunisia

Boulares Meets With Velayati, Baker at UN

LD2809224390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Habib Boulares yesterday morning [meaning 28 Sep] had talks in New York with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. It was learned that the talks dealt with the possibilities for promoting cooperation between Tunisia and Iran after the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

They also discussed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis, and the situation in the Islamic world. The talks were also an occasion for an exchange of views on the role that could be played by the Islamic group [at the UN] in tackling current issues on the basis of consultation and strengthening harmony and closeness between them. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, we have just learned that Foreign Minister Mr. Boulares, who is heading the Tunisian delegation to the 45th session of the UNGA, had talks yesterday in New York with his U.S. counterpart James Baker. They discussed the latest developments of the Gulf crisis and the positions of the two countries. They also reviewed Tunisian-American relations. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Diplomatic Relations Established With USSR

JN2809151390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1422 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (WAKH)—An announcement has been made on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bahrain and the USSR.

A joint statement issued following a meeting in New York this evening between Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah and the USSR's Eduard Shevardnadze adds that, inspired by a common desire to reinforce their friendship and cooperation, the two countries have decided to etsablish diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors as of 28 September 1990.

The two sides agreed to build a relationship on principles of peaceful coexistence, equality, mutual respect for their sovereignty, territorial integrity, and noninterference, in the spirit of the UN charter. The two countries believe that the agreement they have reached meets the goal of promoting international cooperation, peace, and regional and world security, the statement said.

Kuwaiti Embassy Opens to Liberation Volunteers

JN3009095290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 29 Sep (WAKH)—The Kuwaiti Embassy in Bahrain opened its doors today, Saturday, for Kuwaiti volunteers to register their names following the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry decision to open the door to Kuwaiti volunteers to participate in liberating Kuwait.

Mr. Faysal Muhammad al-Hajji, Kuwaiti ambassador to Bahrain, has made a speech on this occasion in which he called on every Kuwaiti citizen meeting the conditions for volunteering, to register his name in the honorary record for defending the land of Kuwait which was violated by the Iraqi regime's unjust invasion.

He added that thousands of Kuwaitis who were forced to leave by the Iraqi authorities have done so so as to earn their living, ensure their safety, and preserve their honor.

He also said: Now that the means of honorable living and comfort have been provided to Kuwaitis by the peoples and governments of the Gulf Cooperation Council, in addition to the measures taken by the legitimate Kuwaiti government in this regard, the Embassy of Kuwait in the State of Bahrain will take care of all the needs of the families of volunteers and will watch over them and ensure their well-being.

The Kuwaiti ambassador concluded: The Kuwaiti people are holding fast inside Kuwait and are carrying out heroic feats against the occupation army which is armed with the most modern equipment and devoid of all values or morals and of all that was prohibited by the Islamic shari'a [law] and human rights.

Kuwait

Amir Addresses UN General Assembly on Gulf

LD2709210990 London KUNA in English 1743 GMT 27 Sep 90

["Text" of address by Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to UN General Assembly in New York on 27 September—formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] New York, Sep 27 (KUNA)—In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful:

As Muslims, we always begin everything by invoking the name of God, our Lord, and in praising the Lord we seek to draw closer to him, whom we praise even in times of distress.

I offer you, Mr. President, in my own name and on behalf of the people of Kuwait, sincere congratulations on your election as president of the forty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly. You represent, sir, a friendly country that has very close ties with Kuwait. Both our countries, as well as all other states, draw strength and effectiveness from the principles of justice and international law. We are confident, Mr. President, that under your stewardship, this assembly will be able to fulfill the aspirations of the international community at this point in time against an extremely complex international backdrop.

I wish also to take this opportunity to pay tribute to your predecessor, General Garba, for the skill and prudence he demonstrated in addressing the concerns of the world community.

In the same vein, special thanks and gratitude go to the secretary general of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, for his persistent and outstanding efforts in the interest of international peace and security as well as his keen interest in enhancing the role and effectiveness of the world organization with a view to attaining the noble goals set by the founding fathers.

Mr. President,
Since Liechtenstein has now joined the United Nations, it is our pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the new member and to wish its friendly people every success in their new status. We trust that Liechtenstein's presence here will promote multilateralism in all its aspects.

Mr. President,
I speak from this rostrum today as my peaceful country is passing through extremely harsh circumstances that have given rise to an unprecedented crisis in the history of the United Nations, which, since its inception, has sought to uphold justice on the basis of international law. Indeed, the Security Council has demonstrated that role

by recently adopting a series of firm resolutions in the face of naked and brutal aggression against the State of Kuwait.

There is no doubt that the key role played by the Security Council is indeed a propitious one under the prevailing grave circumstances in Kuwait, and, in fact, in the world at large. It is our earnest hope that this role will continue to grow without waning and gain momentum without setbacks, in order to consolidate the rule of international law.

Today, I bring to you the message of a peace-loving nation. A nation that has consistently worked for peace; a nation that reached out with a helping hand to all those who truly needed help; a nation that sought mediation and reconciliation among adversaries. It is this very nation whose security and stability have been trampled upon as a result of its abiding belief in lofty principles inspired by our true Moslem faith and echoed in universal charters, pacts and codes of morality.

Today, I plead before you the cause of a people whose land, until so recently, was a beacon for peaceful coexistence and geniune brotherhood among the family of nations. A people whose national territory was a gathering place for individuals from various peaceful nations who sought a decent and dignified life through constructive work. Some of these people have now been made homeless, wanderers living only on hope in their banishment, while others have become prisoners or fighters refusing, even at the risk of their own lives, to surrender or yield to occupation with all its violence and brutality.

Mr. President,

The crisis of Kuwait is a manifold tragedy, whose dire consequences affect not only Kuwaitis but other peoples as well. In fact, it has jeopardized stability in the world, especially in the Gulf region.

And so, I come to this forum, which is the focal point of international collective action, in order to acknowledge the overwhelming global solidarity that has been shown to us in a multitude of Security Council resolutions that have been passed in an unprecedented fashion. This demonstrates rock-solid international rejection of the assassination of the norms of international law, rules of good-neighbourly relations and established customs and practices at the hands of armed military invaders whose tanks rolled over and crushed all those concepts. Indeed, this is what makes the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait quite a peculiar case. For we have never seen in contemporary post World War II history a country that overran a sovereign independent state, a member of the United Nations, and then sought not only to annex it by brutal force but also to erase its name and entire entity from the world political map and wipe out the parameters of its national identity as defined by its institutions and its political, economic and social structures. All of this, Mr. President, has taken place as we approach the end of the twentieth century!

I came here to tell you of the horrors and suffering we are enduring both inside and outside our occupied homeland, and to put before you our just case. Now, the fate of a people, of a nation, is in your hands. Expecting you to act in good conscience, we are confident that the only measure that will win your endorsement is support for our legitimate right to liberate our land. Furthermore, we trust that you will not waver in deciding on the measures needed to compel the invading aggressors to restore the legitimate authority and to put an end to their barbaric acts and deviations.

Mr. President,

The aggression by the Iraqi regime against the State of Kuwait which resulted in occupation and the Iraqi vicious attempts to annex Kuwait in flagrant violation of all charters, norms of conduct and treaties, including those legal instruments concluded between the two countries and deposited right here with the United Nations, is not an ordinary conflict between two states over a piece of land. Rather, the Iraqi aggression was the culmination of a pre-meditated scheme to occupy and seize the entire state by force of arms. This aggression, alas, was perpetrated by a country with which we have several internationally recognized treaties and agreements within the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the United Nations and other international organizations.

This Iraqi regime has invented false pretexts and untenable claims against my peaceful and peace-loving country. In response to them, and despite our firm conviction that those claims were totally unfounded, we proposed the constitution of a mutually acceptable, neutral Arab arbitration panel to which both parties would submit their differences. However, Iraq turned down that offer out of hand. Our last attempt at a peaceful resolution of our problems with Iraq was the bilateral round of talks in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in the course of which Kuwait stressed the need to resolve its outstanding problems with Iraq within an Arab context. But Iraq's plans were not anchored in any legal framework or based on any formal legal instruments. In fact, Iraq was bent on sweeping through the entire territory of Kuwait, violating its sovereignty and violating the sanctity of Kuwaiti citizens' lives and property. As a consequence, rape, destruction, terror and torture are now the rule of the day in the once peaceful and tranquil land of Kuwait. Hundreds of thousands of Kuwaiti citizens along with nationals of various other countries who were our guests have been made homeless and many of them have had their life savings robbed. Hundreds have lost their lives. Others have been held hostage. Indeed, at this very moment, an intense campaign of terror, torture and humiliation continues unabated in that dear land. We receive daily reports of massacres and continuing systematic armed looting and destruction of state assets and individual property.

This has prompted the forces of rightness, justice and peace in the world to try to acquaint themselves with the calamity of these innocents. In accordance with its responsibilities derived from the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of civilians in times of war, the International Committee of the Red Cross has attempted to dispatch a team that would have reported on their conditions. But the aggresor, persisting in his inhumane conduct, declined to allow this international committee to send representatives to Kuwait in order to carry out their tasks. He also refused to let envoys of the United Nations secretary-general to visit Kuwait to stand [as received] on the conditions of its population.

Such conduct constitutes yet another violation by the aggressor of international and humanitarian covenants, thus demanding a resolute stand against it.

Against all these odds, an enormous source of solace to us has been the position taken by virtually all countries of the world in support of Kuwait's rights. Hence, the League of Arab States, the Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Countries and the United Nations Security Council all took appropriate decisions condemning the Iraqi aggression and calling for the annulment of the Annexation Act and the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the invading Iraqi forces to the border that existed prior to the aggression. Thus, the legitimate Government of Kuwait would be able to exercise its functions and responsibilities as it used to before the invasion. It is with a deep sense of pride and honour that we hail the stand taken by the proud people of Kuwait in defence of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of their state against the usurper whose forces are armed to the teeth with weapons of destruction.

Mr President,

Two years have now elapsed since I made an initiative from this rostrum calling for the cancellation of foreign debts under the burden of which numerous countries suffer enormously. In point of fact, these countries have fallen victim to a host of factors that not only thwarted any prospect for their economic prosperity but also generated mounting pressure on them. Though some measure of progress has indeed been made in this area, the magnitude and scope of the problem continue to pose a grave threat to the lives of millions of human beings, a threat that in all likelihood may undermine world peace and stability. The long-standing academic argument that economic stability and political stability are closely interlinked is perhaps as valid and timely now as it has ever been. Along these lines, it would be advisable for us all to review the conclusions of the United Nations-sponsored Conference on the Problems of the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris earlier this month, in order to appreciate better the weight of the problem and the urgency it has assumed with a view to making tangible headway towards an effective remedy in the interest of all mankind. In this spirit, Kuwait, for its part, has decided, in line with our previous proposal regarding this issue, to write off all interests on its loans. In addition, Kuwait will consider with the poorest nations arrangements regarding the principal of its loans with a view to easing the burden of their debts.

Mr President,

From the early years of independence, my country has been privileged to be in the forefront of states that gave development aid to other countries. Kuwait's contributions represent the highest rate in the world in terms of gross national product, amounting to 8.3 percent of its GNP. This highlights Kuwait's genuine desire to contribute towards raising the standard of living in the developing nations. It also proves that Kuwait has been a leader in the efforts to improve the economic infrastructure of other countries.

Mr President,

The devastating consequences of the aggression against Kuwait and its civilian population with its repercussions on the stability and security of the entire Gulf region, together with its ripple effects on world stability, as we have clearly seen, have been far-reaching indeed. They have already had adverse effects on long-standing crucial issues we had always hoped the world community would eventually resolve satisfactorily. I have in mind the problem of the Palestinian people and the tragedy of the occupation of the southern part of our sister state, Lebanon.

Mr President,

The State of Kuwait will remain, as always, faithful to its principles, true to its system of values, close to its friends and respectful of its obligations and commitments.

In closing, may I take this opportunity, Mr President, to address a few words to my people, my kinsfolk, the loyal sons and daughters of Kuwait, from this august forum, a forum for justice and fairness, a forum for guidance and hope, to assure each and every one of you that Allah, the Almighty, will ultimately triumph for us, thanks to your struggle and resolve, thanks to the gracious role of the United Nations, thanks to the support lent to us by our brethren and friends along with all people of good conscience throughout the world. The withdrawal of the invaders is, God willing, undoubtedly imminent. We shall return to our Kuwait, the oasis of safety and peace, which embraces all Kuwaitis and foreigners living in our midst as brothers. Together, we will join hands in concert and harmony to secure our development and progress. This will be a fulfillment of God's promise as rendered in the following verse:

"O ye who believe.

If you will aid (the cause of)

Allah, he will aid you,

And plant your feet firmly."

And whose word can be truer than Allah's?

Thank you and may Allah, our Lord, bring you all peace and grace.

Defense Minister Discusses Nation's Liberation

PM2809151190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Sep 90 p 7

[Interview with Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah by Muhammad Fahd al-Harithi in al-Ta'if; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Harithi] The Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir is on a visit to the United States at this crucial stage in the Gulf crisis resulting from Iraq's invasion of your country. How do you view that visit?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] Shaykh Jabir's visit to the United States is really extremely important and will have a great impact on the course of the Gulf crisis. The amir's meetings with the U.S. President and other world leaders will further clarify Kuwait's just cause and lead to an even more effective international solidarity against the brutal Iraqi invasion.

[Al-Harithi] There is increasing talk of an expected military solution and possible war plans. What is your view? Will it be a Blitzkrieg?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] Nobody wants war. This region has had enough wars. In a war there is no victor and vanquished. Both sides lose. We want a peaceful settlement of the crisis through implementation of the resolutions passed by the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], and the United Nations, but continued Iraqi intransigence will impose a military solution with grave results for Iraq.

The position of the Saudi forces and the supporting multinational forces is strong. The ground forces will be complete within one month and will then be ready for any military operation. As the weapons and the strategic and economic positions are known and well-studied, such a war would be fierce and quick.

[Al-Harithi] It has been said that the military scenario for the invasion of Kuwait was prepared by Iraq two years ago. What is your comment on that, and did you expect such a thing to happen?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] The military scenario and the sequence of events indicate that there was a prior design not only to invade Kuwait but also to expand in the Gulf region and to seize the eastern region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Had it not been for God's care and the Saudi officials' quick and decisive action the situation would be different now. In actual fact, we did not expect the Iraqi invasion for we were the ones who had built up the Iraqi Army. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had supported Iraq in its time of difficulty and gave it unlimited aid. That is why we did not expect its treachery and treason and we did not expect good to be rewarded with evil.

[Al-Harithi] Iraq invaded Kuwait in a matter of hours. How much resistance did the Kuwaiti Army put up against the invasion? The speed with which the Iraqi forces reached sensitive centers in Kuwait indicates that a pro-Iraq fifth column had been operating in the country. Do you share that view?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] Kuwait was an open country with several communities, all living in peace. Kuwait's principles are based on amity and peace. We had open relations with Iraq. Therefore I am not surprised that there was a fifth column in Kuwait and that it exploited the values and principles of our small country and shocked it with trickery and treachery.

As regards the Kuwaiti Army's resistance to the Iraqi invasion, the truth of the matter is that only 25 percent of the Kuwaiti forces participated in repulsing the attack. The reason is that the Iraqi president had promised a number of Arab kings and presidents that he would not escalate and that he would not use military force.

They advised us not to act, go on the alert, or make any military movements lest we provoke Iraq, and we promised not to. Otherwise we would have stood fast for two or three days and we would all have sacrificed ourselves in the process.

[Al-Harithi] What do you think of the claim that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] was only meant as pincers around the Gulf and that only the Egyptian position frustrated that?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] It is regrettable that the ACC is a grouping intent on destroying Arab cooperation, as revealed by that honorable and honest man President Husni Mubarak who did not accept injustice. He is a man of clear and fair principles. When he discovered that the council was planning actions that ran contrary to Egypt's principles and noble values, he rejected that and said so at his news conferences. We appreciate the Egyptian president and people's honorable and historic stands in support of Kuwait.

[Al-Harithi] From time to time we hear about Arab diplomatic solutions for the Gulf crisis. What are the real intentions behind such solutions?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] The diplomatic solutions are just attempts to procrastinate and to cool the issue. We have emphasized that we will accept nothing short of withdrawal of the Iraqi forces and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti authorities as stipulated in all resolutions issued by the various international bodies. What is the point of diplomatic solutions if the Iraqi regime insists on its folly and remains intransigent, disregarding all international demands and ignoring all the principles of justice, logic, and international traditions?

We were surprised by the attitudes of some Arab states which Kuwait had honorably supported on many occasions. Therefore we will have to fully reassess our diplomatic and economic relations with a number of states.

[Al-Harithi] What is your comment on the latest Iraqi threat to blow up the Saudi oil fields and hit Western interests, and Iraq's use of Islam as a cover in its media campaign?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] We have heard many statements and threats from Saddam Husayn. We always differentiate between the Iraqi people and the Iraqi regime. The Iraqi people are afflicted with a dictatorial leadership. There is no better proof of Saddam Husayn's confused and autocratic decisions than his decision to withdraw from Iran and his revival of the 1975 agreement, which he himself tore up, and all this after eight years of war which destroyed the Iraqi economy along with 1 million Iraqis. The question being asked is: Why was that war waged? Saddam made that decision in order to be able to move the 12 army divisions from the Iranian borders to areas in the north and the south. As regards the Iraqi president's attempt to appear to be an advocate of Islam, he is in fact most distant from Islam. Our true religion is free of that man and his naive attempt to gain the religious sympathy of nations with lies and deception. The great Islamic conference held in holy Mecca has manifested that fact and it has given the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the right to take whatever measures it deems fit to protect itself and to seek the help of friendly forces. That is the reply to Saddam Husayn's allegations.

[Al-Harithi] Where is the Kuwaiti Army and its equipment now? What has happened since the Kuwaiti Government appealed to Kuwaiti youth to join the resistance?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] Our ground forces have been prepared and equipped and have joined the multinational forces at the front. A liberation brigade is under preparation and it will join the other forces at the front. The air force has been deployed at Saudi air bases and will play its part in defending Saudi territory and liberating Kuwait, God willing. Naval vessels from the Kuwaiti Navy have joined the Saudi naval forces. God willing, we will participate in the liberation of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti forces will be the first to enter Kuwait.

As regards the practical steps for the military training of Kuwaiti youth, we have already started that and we have asked our brothers in Saudi Arabia to prepare a special training camp. I take this opportunity to thank the people, government, and king of Saudi Arabia for their efforts and services which are beyond description. We thank the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, his crown prince, his second deputy, and the noble Saudi people.

I also thank all our brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states which have accommodated many Kuwaitis and we thank the UAE, which has provided a camp for training Kuwaiti youth there.

With the solidarity of the Kuwaiti people we have the determination and faith and we will, God willing, return to Kuwait under the leadership of our father and founder of our prosperity Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and his Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.

[Al-Harithi] The opening of Kuwait's border with Saudi Arabia was a move to change the demographic map of Kuwait. What have you done about that? Also, what is the truth about the claims that the Palestinians in Kuwait are cooperating with the invading forces?

[Shaykh Nawwaf] The opening of the Kuwaiti-Saudi borders and the simultaneous pressure put on the Kuwaiti people in various ways to make them leave their homeland exposed a serious plan to usurp Kuwait, evict its people, and replace them with Iraqis.

We have instructed our UN representative to raise the issue at the United Nations and to stress the seriousness of that action. It has also been noticed that, before evicting the Kuwaitis from their homeland, the occupation forces rob them of their belongings, passports, and any evidence of their identity in an attempt to ease the entry of subversive elements into Saudi Arabia. That is why there is complete cooperation between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in carefully scrutinizing the entry of Kuwaitis into Saudi Arabia. At the border there is a Kuwaiti committee which carefully checks the nationality of travelers to Saudi Arabia, and a Saudi committee which facilitates their entry.

As regards the Palestinians in Kuwait, I cannot accuse them of doing that. There is a group which does collaborate and there are Palestinians with the Iraqis at inspection points, but there is a Palestinian group which has rejected the invasion and which still refuses to deal with it.

Minister Envisages 'Higher Committee' for Kuwaitis

LD2909230790 London KUNA in Arabic 1317 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Excerpts] Paris, 29 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah has urged the Western states to endeavor strongly to implement the resolutions of the UN Security Council pertaining to the just Kuwaiti cause. In an interview held with him by the magazine specialising in Arab affairs, with wide readership, (ARABIS), in its current monthly issue, Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad says that the recent European tour by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah has shown that these states are totally committed to the UN resolutions.

His highness the crown prince has recently undertaken a European tour involving Britain, France, and Italy. [passage omitted]

The minister also said that Iraq was aiming with the invasion of Kuwait at killing His Highness the amir of the country, the crown prince, and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, and Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir. [passage omitted]

He said: the Saudi government did not believe Iraqi claims and hastened to mass its troops, and to ask for help from Arab and foreign forces to face up to any Iraqi attack, after Iraq had given previous assurances that it would not interfere with Kuwait. [passage omitted]

He said that the Kuwaiti government is now trying to bring together the Kuwaiti people in various parts of the world, and is also trying to form a higher committee to tackle the new conditions of the Kuwaiti people and their ordeal caused by the tyranny of the Iraqi forces and their repressive practices.

Cabinet Rejects Iraqi Abolition of Dinar

LD3009153790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1435 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Riyadh, 30 sep (SPA)—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers has declared that the decision of the Iraqi authorities to abolish the Kuwaiti dinar and withdraw it from circulation is considered absolutely null and void and without any effect.

In a statement issued today, which was broadcast by Kuwaiti radio, the council points out that the Kuwaiti dinar is still the official currency of the State of Kuwait, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 32 issued in 1968.

The statement refers to the amir's decree which was issued on 3 August last and which stipulates that any legislation, regulation, decision, or measure which is issued by any authority of party claiming to have legal power over Kuwait, or which harms its sovereignty and independence, is considered null and void if it is not issued by the legitimate Government of the State of Kuwait and in accordance with its constitutional regulations.

The statement calls on the international community today to continue the pressures on the treacherous Iraqi regime to comply with the international will and implement the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Parliamentarian Hints at Possible Iraqi Pullout

PM2809144590 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 25 Sep 90 p 18

[Report on interview with Mubarak al-Duwaylah, former Kuwaiti National Assembly member and a Kuwaiti opposition member, by Ibrahim al-Bashir; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-RIYAD interviewed Mr. Mubarak al-Duwaylah, former Kuwaiti National Assembly member and a Kuwaiti opposition symbol of sincere national affiliation.

Al-Duwaylah revealed to AL-RIYAD many grave secrets about events in Kuwait. He confirmed that the head of the so-called Kuwaiti provisional government was a young Kuwaiti called 'Ala' Husayn al-Jabr and that he and the members of his government formed by the Iraqis were killed by the Iraqi authorities in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Asked about reports on some nationalities' cooperation with the invaders in Kuwait, Al-Duwaylah said: "Some people cooperated with the invaders, especially among those occupying important posts in the country. For example, only three people knew the whereabouts of the key to the Central Bank safe. The Bank Governor's secretary—an Arab—knew how to open the safe. She directed the invaders to the safe and opened it for them!

"Those who cooperated with the invaders did so for certain political reasons or because of old grudges or other reasons which are all attributable to hidden spite toward Kuwait.

"There is also another thing which I would like to disclose: A Palestinian major general in the Iraqi Army called Hittin took part in the military operations inside Kuwait. Yes, this is the truth: Many Arabs actually backed Iraq against Kuwait." [passage omitted]

Al-Duwaylah added: "I have corroborated information that the seven people appointed by Iraq under the so-called "provisional Kuwaiti government" have been liquidated out of fear lest the connections which led to their emergence were exposed.

"'Ala' Husayn, who was appointed head of the so-called Provisional Kuwaiti Government was a young Kuwaiti whom I knew personally. His parents are known, and I visited them after the events and found them in a regrettable state. They said: 'Ala' must have been forced to do that!" [passage omitted]

He added that 'Ala' Husayn's full name is 'Ala' Husayn al-Khafaji al-Jabr!

On the present situation in Kuwait Mubarak al-Duwaylah said: "The situation is very difficult at the moment, now that they have appointed the terrorist Husayn Mujid governor of Kuwait." [passage omitted]

Al-Duwaylah said that Kuwaiti detainees have been classified into the following groups: members of al-Sabah family, religious fundamentalists, and resistance elements.

He also said: "We have noted that in the recent period the Iraqi forces have changed their tack [taharrukha] in Kuwait, as if they are preparing for something...it could be withdrawal from Kuwait.

"They have recently brought in some 30,000 to 40,000 so-called 'special forces,' which are criminal and terrorist forces.

He added: "Incidentally, I must say that Mubarak al-Nut—a Kuwaiti poet and opposition member—was shot dead by the invaders after insisting on carrying a portrait of [Kuwaiti Amir] Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad."

Concluding his interview Mubarak al-Duwaylah said: "Repatriation to Kuwait will be imminent, God willing." [passage omitted]

Iraq Reportedly Assassinates Eight Kuwaitis

LD3009065190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0551 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 30 Sep (SPA)—The hand of crime and tyranny of the Iraqi regime assassinated eight Kuwaiti citizens on 21 September on the charge of carrying out activities against the forces of the Baghdad regime which has occupied Kuwait since 2 August.

This was announced in Bahrain by a Kuwaiti businessman, who escaped from Kuwait and wished to remain anonymous. He confirmed that every martyr received a bullet in his head and another in his chest. He added that on the same day the Iraqi soldiers took 17 other men, including businessmen and former parliamentarians, and their families to unknown locations, accusing them of refusing to cooperate with the occupation authorities.

The Kuwaiti businessman described the situation in Kuwait as deteriorating from bad to worse and said that foodstuffs had become scarce. He added that the activities of the Kuwaiti resistance disturbed the soldiers of the Iraqi regime and made them act against the Kuwaitis in a brutal manner, and made some of them surrender to the resistance men and join them, because they became convinced of the correctness of the course of the resistance and the legitimacy of its demands after they understood the gravity of what Baghdad's Saddam has done and the gravity of his crimes in Kuwait.

Saudi Radio Says Iraq Hides Damaged Tanks

LD2809231790 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] The invading Iraqi authorities in Kuwait have started to transfer their damaged tanks and ships, destroyed by the Kuwaiti resistance men, to a huge hole along the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border.

Reliable sources told KUNA that the Iraqi forces have decided to take this step after having made arrangements for representatives from the International Red Cross or from other human rights organizations to enter Kuwait. The Iraqi authorities are trying to give these representatives the wrong impression that life in Kuwait goes on as normal, and that there are no acts of oppression or terrorism against Kuwaiti citizens.

The sources indicated that the Iraqi forces are also trying to project this false image by trying to provide some medicine to some chemists in Kuwait before allowing the Red Cross organization to enter Kuwait for its fact-finding mission.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister on Foreign Presence, Pullout

NC0110084590 Paris AFP in English 0815 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Oct 1 (AFP)—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-Al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the Saudi defense minister, has said U.S. troops defending the kingdom would leave immediately after an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Speaking during a visit to a military base in the southern town of Sharurah [spelling as received] on Sunday, the prince said there was no time limit on the deployment of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia. "These forces are here on the demand of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia to achieve a certain objective—that is the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restoring the legitimacy of Kuwait," he said.

The U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia "depends on how long this problem goes on. "When this problem is over, these forces will withdraw immediately," he added. "We hope the next step from (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn will be withdrawal so we can achieve some peace and to atone to the Arab nations for his deeds," the prince said.

An Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait "will not be achieved unless superior forces (than Iraq's) are available," he said. "We also wish to let the world know we are a peaceful nation and a peaceful country doesn't mind friendly forces on its territory to keep away the ghosts of war and the pains of war."

Asked what would happen if Israel went to war with Iraq, the prince said "Israel must stay far away totally from the Gulf problem." "We will not allow Israel, regardless how severe inter-Arab conflits are, to defend us against Iraq or against anybody else," he said.

French Troops Arrive, Another 1000 Expected

NC3009160690 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Yanbu', Saudi Arabia, Sept 30 (AFP)—Nearly 2,000 French troops arrived here Sunday aboard a civilian car ferry, taking France's current deployment in the Kingdom to around 3,000.

By the middle of the week, France is expected to have 4,000 soldiers in Saudi Arabia, stationed alongside units from the United States, Britain, Egypt, Morocco, Syria and Pakistan to guard against a possible attack by Iraq.

Correspondents here said 1,910 troops, including some 800 Foreign Legionnaires, arrived at this western Saudi port aboard the Esterel. Two other civilian vessels, the Ile de la Reunion and the Castelet, unloaded armoured vehicles.

Nine hundred troops landed here on Saturday aboard the car ferry Corse, some of whom left early Sunday for their base at King Khalid Military City in northeast Saudi Arabia. The huge buildup of foreign forces in

Saudi Arabia—including 143,000 U.S. troops—followed Iraq's August 2 invasion of neighboring Kuwait and fears in the West that Baghdad was also planning an operation to seize Saudi oil fields. Iraq has consistently denied having any intentions of attacking Saudi Arabia.

Last Two Ships Unload

LD0110103190 Paris Domestic Service in French 1000 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Excerpt] The last two civilian ships carrying French reinforcements to the Gulf unloaded this morning in the King Fahd oil port at Yanbu in Saudi Arabia, which is gradually being transformed into a French military base. Arriving at 0700 this morning the two ships began the operation to unload their 48 AMX tanks and their 250 armored vehicles. As for the 350 soldiers aboard, they have gone to join the troops who preceded them in the ports big warehouse, put at the disposal of the French Army by the Saudis. [passage omitted]

Prince Bandar Stresses Peaceful Solution in Gulf

LD2809204390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1902 GMT 28 Sep 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message"]

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin-Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi ambassador to the United States, says that as long as the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-Abd-al-'Aziz, and his brother, Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad, are at the helm of our two countries, God willing, we will triumph and right will be restored

Here, brothers, is part of the interview conducted by the Kuwaiti information delegation accompanying his highness the amir of the country, may God preserve him, on his visit to New York with his excellency the fraternal Saudi Arabian Kingdom's Ambassador His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan:

[Begin recording] [Bandar] The world rally to solve the catastrophe that has befallen the Arab nation should be ending, but how and when is the question. It is hard for me to say. We hope, however, that the solution will be peaceful; whether the solution is peaceful or not depends on Saddam Husayn.

[Reporter] Your Highness, do you believe that there are political measures in the offing, or is the air blockade the last measure before there is a military one?

[Bandar] I do not want to forecast events, but every event has meaning. I wish to affirm that, as they say in our country, no right is lost as long as there are seekers after it. We are seekers of right, and God willing, our right will not be lost. As long as the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-Abd-al-'Aziz, and his brother, Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad, are at the head of our country's leadership, God willing, we will triumph, and the right will be restored. I beg of you not to ask me about the future, because it is better to leave it for now, for every event has its special meaning.

[Reporter] God willing. Thank you. [end recording]

Japan's Kaifu To Visit Kingdom 6-7 Oct

LD2809191590 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] The Royal Court issued today a statement in which it announced that the Japanese prime minister will pay a visit to Saudi Arabia. Here is the text of the statement:

A statement from the Royal Court:
Within the context of the friendship relations and widening the mutual understanding between the governments of Saudi Arabia and Japan, the Japanese prime minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, will pay a visit to Saudi Arabia on 17 and 18 Rabi' al-'Awwal 1411AH, equivalent to 6 and 7 October 1990 A.D.

The visit is aimed at exchanging views and consultations about the issues of mutual interest, at the forefront of which are the current grave situation in the region which resulted from the Iraqi invasion of fraternal Kuwait and studying the means to develop the existing amicable cooperation relations between the two friendly countries in all fields.

Yemen

Salih Criticizes Saudi Media, Opposes Foreignors

JN3009214090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Under the slogan "popular participation on the path of democracy, development, and unity," the complementary conference of the General People's Congress' fourth general conference was held today in al-Shukukani Hall at the Police Academy. It was presided over by Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress and chairman of the Presidential Council chairman. [passage omitted]

Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih opened the conference proceedings with a speech in which he welcomed the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee secretary general and Political Bureau members and leaders of the political parties and organizations. He stressed that the General People's Congress belongs to all masses of our Yemeni people all over the Yemeni arena and that it will cooperate with all organizations and parties in the Yemeni arena in building the new Yemen and maintaining national unity.

He said: On this occasion, I urge all the brother leaders of the political parties and organizations to cooperate, forge cohesion, and mass the resources and energies of the mass organizations in order to cooperate at this phase to confront the threats that our Arab nation, particularly the peninsula and the Gulf, is facing.

In his speech, the brother chairman explained that the peninsula and the Gulf are now passing through serious dangerous and that we are close to those dangers. He said: Therefore, all forces, organizations, parties, and mass and professional associations must rise to the level of the responsibility and to the level of the threats, shoulder their responsibility in building the new Yemen, and avoid all sensitivities of the past and attendant evils. All must join forces for the Yemen of 22 May [1990, the day on which the united Republic of Yemen was proclaimed]

The brother chairman added: We in the Republic of Yemen are very concerned in maintaining good relations with the brothers in the Peninsula and the Gulf, and with other Arab states. At least, we are eager to maintain the level reached by those political and brotherly ties between us and our neighbors, particularly the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The brother chairman noted the measures taken by the Saudi Governemnt against the Yemeni expatriates in the Kingdom. He said: We did not expect the Kingdom to take such oppressive measures against the Yemeni citizens residing on its territory who have participated in building the country, along with their brothers in the Kingdom. If there is any difference in views or policies, this does not mean—and does not justify—that citizens should bear the burden of that difference. Neither does it mean that such oppressive measures should be taken against them. Our brothers in the Kingdom should not have taken those oppressive measures against the Yemeni expatriates.

He explained that Yemen's policy on the Gulf crisis is clear. He said: We have stated this more than once before, on more than one occasion, and at all levels of the leadership, including the Presidential Council, the government, the Council of Deputies, and the majority of Yemeni party and organizations leaders. We in Yemen do not approve of Kuwait's invasion or annexation. We also want a peaceful solution within the framework of the Arab family. At the same time, we do not support the foreign presence in the region. These are the principles and bases on which the Republic of Yemen's policy on the crisis in the region is founded. However, very regrettably, there are some people who do not wish to understand the Yemeni position, and even try to distort and blacken it. They even want us to support and bless the foreign presence in the region. We will not accept that foreign presence. If there were any real threats against our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or any other coming from the Iraqi troops, we would have been prepared to support them to defend the Kingdom. Also, the Kingdom would have had the right to call for Arab and Islamic forces to protect it instead of calling the foreign troops into the land of the Arabs and the sacred lands.

The brother chairman touched on the hostile and frenzied campaigns against the Yemeni people and their political leadership launched by the Saudi media organs, including radio, television, and press. He said: We stress that we in the Republic of Yemen are not prepared at all to respond to those media falsehoods. It is not in Yemen's morals or in the Yemeni's values and genuine ethics, to enter into those media falsehoods which do not serve Arab solidarity or the ties of brotherhood and good neighborliness between us and the brothers in the Kingdom.

He added: But our people and their political forces are entitled to have access to facts and what others say about them so they can be alert and have such a level of awareness as to cement our internal front. He said: We in the Yemen do not give much attention to whatever abuses and obscenities are mouthed by these information media—not even those said about 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is just a citizen of the Republic of Yemen and one of the sons of these genuine Yemeni people who have behind them a long tradition of civilization and glories.

The brother chairman said: I am greatly honored to be a Yemeni citizen belonging to the soil of this old Yemeni homeland. The brother chairman made it plain that the media drive against our Yemeni people and their leadership by the Saudi news media would not have happened had it not been for the foreign presence on Arab soil. He said: We do not know how to describe these writers that vilify the Yemen; we can react. But our Yemeni people will not stoop to these vituperations. We are not prepared to join the line of vituperation and abuse, which themselves are medals on the chest of the ancient Yemeni people and the pride of their political sovereignty. All that we care about is for our citizens to know all the facts about how others view them and what they plan for the Yemen. Most of all, we want to cement our domestic front. Yemeni unity is targeted by those who do not wish the Yemen well. He said: Yemeni unity will remain firm and strong and will never be shaken, nor will anyone at all be able to compromise it. The bet on differences developing within the leadership will be losing one. The people and the leadership are one cohesive unity complementing each other in the interest a strong, independent Yemen in terms of will and decisionmaking.

Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: Once more, we would emphasize that the Yemen is not a party to any conflict nor is it prepared to enter into vituperations; no force will be able to drag the Yemen into such vituperations. Each Yemeni has the right to be made aware of all that is taking place in the national and pan-Arab arena as well as the scenario being prepared to commit aggression on the Yemen. He stressed long tradition and steadfastness in the face of the major challenges our Yemeni people have had to tackle throughout history and their ability to overcome them and safeguard the sovereignty of the homeland and defend its dignity.

He said: Our people have been known for their heroic feats in defending the sovereigny, dignity, and security of the homeland. The chairman added: We emphasize to our people that our country will take the responsibility of defending land, independence, and dignity. He appealed to all political organizaitons and parties to close ranks and form a strong broad-based front at this historical juncture in the interest of building the Yemen. He said: You have common denominators and these are the principles of the Yemeni revolution. This is the key common demoninator if we are to safeguard the revolution and its gains as well as the sovereignty of the homeland. [passage omitted]

Minister Declares Embargo 'Inhuman and Irrational'

EA3009181790 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 30 September—Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, the Yemeni industry minister, has described the economic embargo imposed on the Iraqi people as inhuman and irrational and said that an Arab citizen cannot tolerate it. In an interview with two newspapers, AL-INQADH AL-WATANI and AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH, his excellency said that Arab wealth is being squandered as large amounts of it are spent on the foreign presence and its expenses. Meanwhile, the lunatic rise in oil prices has direct effects on the Third World.

The Yemeni minister called for the establishment of a special fund from the Arab world's petroleum revenues to be spent on the countries [words indistinct] the natural resources are the wealth of the Arabs and the Muslims. The Yemeni minister stated that previously, the remittances of Yemeni expatriates (?amounted to) $1.2 billion and said that this amount has dwindled to $700 to $800 billion [amount as heard] as a result of the Gulf crisis and the reverse migration. He added that Yemen's oil revenues cannot bridge the gap.

Chief of Staff, Other Officers Said Executed

PM2809174190 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 27 Sep 90 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Arrest and Assassination Campaign in Iraq; Army Chief of Staff Executed"]

[Text] Geneva, AL-ZAHIRAH—The military rebellion which started in the 7th Iraqi Armored Division has expanded to include a large number of military concentrations in various areas of Iraq and Kuwait. This time criticisms have been loudly aimed against Saddam over the invasion of Kuwait. As a result, Saddam has ordered campaigns of arrests and assassination throughout Iraq to get rid of his rivals.

Sources closely linked to military circles in Iraq emphasize that Lieutenant General Nizar Khazraji, chief of staff of the Iraqi Army, was executed recently on the direct orders of Saddam Husayn. The sources said that a disagreement erupted between Saddam and the Army chief of staff over the military operations in Kuwait and the invasion operation itself.

A high-ranking source has told AL-ZAHIRAH that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn held Lt. Gen. Nizar Khazraji responsible for the deterioration of the Iraqi forces' military conditions in Kuwait and for the political failure of the invasion of Kuwait right from the start as a result of the failure to arrest Kuwait's amir and cabinet. The sources added that the Iraqi president started to realize the political failure of the invasion of Kuwait after it was proved to him that his forces were unable to arrest the Kuwaiti amir and his two brothers, heir apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. The Iraqi forces also failed to immediately control the Kuwaiti airbases. Nor were they able to close the borders immediately to stop members of the al-Sabah family from leaving the country.

The information obtained by AL-ZAHIRAH says that Saddam Husayn recently ordered the execution of a large group of Iraqi officers for their refusal to invade Kuwait and for their organizing an opposition campaign against him within the Army in the recent weeks.

Among the senior officers executed during the recent wave of executions is Lt. Gen. Thabit Sultan al-Tikriti, commander of a corps in the Iraqi Army. He was one of those close to Saddam Husayn. Another victim is Colonel Nawfal al-Tikriti, deputy chief of Iraqi intelligence. It is clear that both officers come from the al-Tikriti family to which Saddam Husayn belongs.

The source told AL-ZAHIRAH that Lt. Gen. Thabit Sultan al-Tikriti died while being tortured by the ugliest means. Parts of his body were severed while he was alive. As for Col. Nawfal al-Tikriti, he was killed by Iraqi Intelligence Chief Sab'awi Ibrahim al-Hasan, half-brother of Saddam Husayn.

It is worth mentioning that Col. Nawfal al-Tikriti was the son-in-law of former Iraqi Defense Minister Lieutenant General Hardan al-Tikriti, one of those who led the 17 July coup which brought the Ba'th [Party] to power. Hardan al-Tikriti was killed by Iraqi intelligence in Kuwait.

AL-ZAHIRAH's information indicates that Iraqi Intelligence Chief Sab'awi Ibrahim summoned Col. Nawfal al-Tikriti and accused him of planning a coup operation against the current regime in Iraq. Then Sab'awi himself killed him inside the intelligence building.

The information said that two senior assistants to the Iraqi security chief were arrested and hidden in an unknown location. It is believed that they were killed after being accused of not cooperating fully with the Iraqi Army and the security organs in the operation to invade Kuwait.

Iraqi military sources estimate that 120 officers of various ranks and from various military sectors have been executed for their insistence on not going to Kuwait to take part in Saddam's crime there.

Kuwaiti Ports Opened to Sea Navigation

JN2809192690 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 90 p 7

[By Huda Malik Shabib]

[Text] The General Establishment of Iraqi Ports began its activities in the ports of the Governorate of Kuwait from the first days of the return of the branch to the origin [Kuwait to Iraq].

Ghassan 'Abdallah Radwan, senior secretary of the Transport and Communications Ministry, said this to AL-JUMHURIYAH. He also noted that the al-Shuwaykh, al-Shu'aybah, al-Dawhah and Saddam's ports have been activated, and that the al-Shuwaykh port was chosen to be the headquarters of the naval control center, so as to provide naval services for incoming and outgoing vessels at ports in the Governorate of Kuwait. These measures were taken following the Establishment's Naval Decision No. 3 for 1990 providing for opening the ports of the Governorate of Kuwait to sea navigation, and defining specifications for navigation safety in them.

He pointed out that under the directives and supervision of the minister of transport and communications, the Establishment carries out various activities, such as unloading cargo from vessels anchored at the governorates' ports, and conveying it to its owners—importers or governmental bodies that imported the cargo. One of the vessels unloaded was a ship anchored in the port of al-Shuwaykh and loaded with 7333 tonnes of rice and animal fodder. Other goods stored in the port were also handed over to importers and to parties that will benefit from them inside the governorate.

Ghassan 'Abdallah added that, under the supervision of the minister, the Establishment has made available all means of loading and unloading to facilitate handling of cargo and continuous maintenance at the ports of the governorate, in addition to delivering the cargo to its owners.

It is to be noted that activity in Iraqi ports is currently normal after the majority of employees reported to their jobs, and owners of imported goods are receiving their consignments in an orderly manner. Every means was made available for employees to report to work, and activity will be organized to facilitate implementation of tasks assigned to the employees.

Abu Nidal Group's Hamdan Meets Ramadan

JN2809161990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has received brother Hamdan, secretary of the Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council and his delegation.

The first deputy prime minister said that it is high time that the injustice the Palestinian people have been exposed to for 43 years was ended. He said it is also high time that the policy of terrorism and aggression led by the United States against the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and its rejection of all UN resolutions regarding the Zionists' withdrawal from Palestine, were stopped. He added that this can be achieved through struggle, jihad, and great sacrifices to restore usurped Arab rights and wealth.

The first deputy prime minister emphasized that the unity between Iraq and Kuwait has strengthened the popular intifadah of the heroes of Palestine in the occupied Arab territories and turned it into a popular Arab uprising in the Arab East and the Arab Maghreb. He said that the enlightened and large-scale popular Arab uprising against the American and Western presence in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] constitutes the practical and constant position against some cowardly and trembling Arab rulers who have relinquished Arab land, honor, and rights to the enemies of the Arabs who covet their land and wealth.

The Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council secretary stated that President Saddam Husayn's brave pan-Arab stand and his excellency's confrontation of all forms of conspiracies and aggression have lifted the Palestinian people's revolutionary spirit and reinforced their intifadah and challenge to the Zionist occupation. He said that the Arabs now have a new spirit of struggle and readiness to sacrifice for their natural rights to land and wealth.

The Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Meets Tariq 'Aziz

JN2809121190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received the Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council delegation led by the Council's secretary, Brother Hamdan. They discussed the latest developments in the region and stressed the importance of President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the entire region. They also stressed that the Arab nation's battle is a single battle against imperialism and Zionism.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department and the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

PLF's Al-Miqdah Sends Message to Saddam

JN2809161090 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 28, INA—President Saddam Husayn has received a telegram from Yusuf al-Miqdah (Abu Nidal) [INA editor's note as received], secretary of the Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] paying tribute to the genuine national stand of President Husayn and stressing placing all capabilities in support of Iraq against the Zionist-imperialist invasion.

In his telegram, the Palestinian leader said Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn and in confronting the Zionist American aggression and raising the banner of Palestine and the masses of the Palestinian uprising represents the Arab nation's gallant resolve for achieving right and highlighting the Arab human and civilizational role.

The Palestinian leader expressed full solidarity with the Iraqi people and army in their support of the Palestinian people against the Zionist and American oppression and the submissive Arab regimes. Mr Abu Nidal pledged standing alongside Iraq in the advanced trench and contributing with all potentials for undertaking the national duty alongside the Iraqi people.

PLF's 'Abbas Meets Ramadan, Warns on 'Terrorism'

JN2809150490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received Muhammad 'Abbas, Abu-al-'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] and his delegation today.

During the meeting, the first deputy prime minister stressed that the devils of infidelity and aggression and the coward and agent Arab rulers must not underestimate the Arab power that has reached an advanced level in the human, material, and economic fields and in armaments; and that the Arab citizen's will to sacrifice and his combat readiness to defend his rights is growing in the Arab East and the Arab Maghreb. He said that the American force, which is threatening and intimidating the Arabs to force them to disavow their revolutionary principles and legitimate rights, will be confronted by an invisible Arab force that will surprise the aggressors and force them to retreat along with their slaves. This Arab force, he added will defeat them to keep Arab land, its resources, and its wealth in the hands of its people, who are defending it.

The first deputy prime minister added that the U.S. Administration's land, naval, and air blockade under the cover of the UN Security Council is a terrorist and aggressive act against 18 million Iraqis and against the will of the Arabs, Muslims, and world public opinion. He pointed out that Iraq has not exercised its legitimate right to reply to this overt and large-scale aggression because it really wants to maintain peace and provide further opportunities to spare humanity the catastrophe of war that the Americans and their aggressive allies are threatening.

Palestinian struggler Abu-al-'Abbas said that the current battle is a battle of common Arab destiny, and that the enlightened popular Arab uprising in the Arab homeland expresses the true character of the Arab citizen and his readiness to sacrifice for his rights and objectives. This uprising, he added, proves that the revolutionary spirit, which the leaders of capitulation and the agent Arab rulers have attempted to crush, is still burning, alive, and strong.

He added that America, the Zionist entity's strategic ally, is the number one terrorist state in the world, and it is the state that will lead the policy of terrorism and aggression. He said that America has not recognized international legitimacy; or Palestinian, Lebanese, or Syrian human rights, and has rejected all UN Security Council resolutions regarding the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the Zionist withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Abu-al-'Abbas emphasized that America's decision to impose a land, naval, and air blockade against Iraq is an overt act of aggression, and that any terrorist act carried out by America and its allies against any Iraqi aircraft in the air or anywhere else will be confronted by similar, or even stronger actions and responses all over the world.

Ambassador to Hungary Discusses Gulf Crisis

AU2809145190 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 27 Sep 90 p 2

[Interview with Muhammad Ganim al-Annaz, Iraqi ambassador to Budapest, by Gyorgy Fodor; place and date not given; interview headlined "Al-Annaz, Iraq's Ambassador to Budapest: That Means War—Baghdad Facing the World"]

[Text] [Fodor] Mr. Ambassador, what do you think about Eduard Shevardnadze's speech? It was a tough speech, and it could almost be interpreted as an ultimatum.

[Al-Annaz] I have not received the official transcript, I only heard the speech on the radio. However, it does not really differ from what the Soviet Union has said so far.

[Fodor] Nevertheless, it is the first time that the Soviet Union would ever support military action under the auspices of the United Nations.

[Al-Annaz] I think that this has been influenced by the diplomatic relations established between the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia. It is in the interest of the Soviet Union to be present in the region. This (conflict) provided a good opportunity for Moscow. At the same time, this is no reason to withdraw. The Soviet Union has always said that it favors a peaceful, negotiated solution.

[Fodor] The Security Council accepted the extension of the embargo to include an air embargo. Thus, Iraq finds itself in a very difficult situation.

[Al-Annaz] Yes, that is correct. However, to be honest, the air embargo was already being enforced before the decision. A few days ago, Washington did not authorize the landing on U.S. soil of Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz's airplane.

[Fodor] ...Washington did not authorize his landing in an Iraqi airplane.

[Al-Annaz] I do not think that there is anything new in the decision. It was to be expected. It is another U.S. effort to isolate Iraq.

[Fodor] Even Yemen supported the decision. Iraq has even been abandoned by its allies.

[Al-Annaz] You know perfectly well that the majority of the Security Council is against Iraq, regardless of what Yemen says. Yemen cannot change that. These last few days, Saudi Arabia and the United States have been exercising a lot of pressure on Yemen.

[Fodor] Iran is also prepared to send troops to Saudi Arabia, and that is a new element.

[Al-Annaz] If a small number of Iranian soldiers is present next to the enormous U.S. military force, it really does not change the situation. Which do you think is the more decisive factor: the big U.S. military force, or the troops sent by smaller nations?

[Fodor] As far as numbers are concerned, the U.S. military force is a more decisive factor, of course.... However, I would like to mention the fact that Article 5 of the Arab League Statutes stipulates that member states are not allowed to "settle" disputes among themselves by using force.

[Al-Annaz] The Arab League is a very important force, but at the moment, it has nothing in its hands, it cannot do anything. U.S. interests are the most decisive factor, together with Saudi Arabian, Syrian, and Egyptian interests. This is what happened in Kuwait: The Kuwaitis revolted against the emir, and they asked the Iraqi Government to help them.

[Fodor] How do you explain that almost the whole world disagreed with the actions against Kuwait?

[Al-Annaz] The answer lies in interests and money. Until now, how many countries have acted violently against other countries? The United States invaded Panama, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan.... Why did these steps not meet with such indignation? There was not such an outcry because these countries have no oil....

[Fodor] However, Shevardnadze just apologized on behalf of the Soviet Union, and he said that the Soviet Union regretted what had happened in Afghanistan.

[Al-Annaz] In 20 years' time we will be saying the same thing.

[Fodor] In other words, Iraq is not withdrawing?

[Al-Annaz] Iraq is not withdrawing under any circumstances. We are talking about a unification that took place. Arab unification is the ideology of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the renaissance party. All the Arab countries have to unite.

[Fodor] What chances does Iraq stand, given that, in the military sphere, it is facing the entire world?

[Al-Annaz] We have strength, and we can resist.

[Fodor] How long can you resist?

[Al-Annaz] I think that you should ask the enemy how long Iraq can resist. Bush and his allies may even decide to launch an attack against Iraq today, but not even Bush knows when he would be able to end the war if he attacked today.

[Fodor] The hostage issue severely damaged Iraq's reputation. What do you intend to do with the hostages?

[Al-Annaz] These people are not hostages, they are guests, and they are going to represent peace. During World War II, the United States also interned Americans of German or Japanese descent. The Japanese were taken to the places where bombings were expected.

[Fodor] There have been rumors saying that there is opposition within the Iraqi Army, among those people who opposed the actions against Kuwait. Furthermore, attempts have allegedly been made on Saddam Husayn's life.

[Al-Annaz] There is no point in dealing with that topic. There is no truth in those allegations.... There may be an opposition against the regime in Iraq, but at the moment, that opposition is also against the United States. Nobody in Iraq would oppose Arab unification or liberation.

[Fodor] It has even been mentioned officially that, if there should be a war, Iraq would destroy the oil fields in the Gulf. Is it also true that Iraq would even have recourse to chemical weapons?

[Al-Annaz] We will use any weapon at our disposal, including chemical weapons, and all other weapons that exist.

[Fodor] What about the oil fields?

[Al-Annaz] Oil represents U.S. interests, that is why the United States is present in the Gulf. We will not do anything that could serve U.S. interests. The United States will really have to think twice. We are backed by 200 million Arabs.

[Fodor] What will happen to Kuwait?

[Al-Annaz] Kuwait is a part of Iraq, it always has been, and now it has been returned to Iraq, it is an Iraqi province. If the Security Council is worried about the Kuwaiti people it should organize a referendum.

[Fodor] Would Baghdad accept a referendum?

[Al-Annaz] Why should Baghdad not accept a referendum?

[Fodor] Do you mean that there is room for compromise?

[Al-Annaz] That is in our own interest. If they want, we will organize a referendum. However, I would like to remind you that Israel has been ignoring the Security Council's resolutions for almost 50 years. Why does the world not try to enforce the implementation of those resolutions?

[Fodor] Even Iraq's allies—Jordan, Libya, and the PLO—ultimately strive for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

[Al-Annaz] The leaders strive for our withdrawal, but the Arab people do not strive for that. The people support us. It is the 21st century revolution that is currently taking place in the Arab world, and I think that the Arab nation will unite.

[Fodor] So, Iraq will not withdraw. Does that mean war?

[Al-Annaz] That means war....

Official Says Air Embargo Excludes Passengers

JN2609141490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Nuri al-Safi, director general of Iraqi Airways, said today, Wednesday, that Baghdad has understood the Security Council resolution's air embargo on Iraq as applying only to air cargo, and not passengers.

Answering reporters, Nuri al-Safi said that Iraqi Airways operates flights when it hires its planes out to other countries to transport some of Iraq's guests.

Official Surveys Consumer Rush for Oil, Gas

JN2809194690 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 25 Sep 90 p 7

[By Fadil Qalmaji]

[Text] Improper conduct and nastiness most often create undesirable negative results, because this conduct is usually both unjustifiable and unrealistic. These two traits were in evidence during the artificial crisis created about white oil and liquid gas—a crisis that caused a great deal of confusion.

AL-'IRAQ interviewed Namir Tawfiq al-Mufti, director general of the Oil Products Distribution Corporation, and discussed with him aspects and causes of this artificial crisis.

Namir Tawfiq al-Mufti said: At this time of year, we urge citizens to secure their requirements of white oil and liquid gas to prepare for the approaching winter in order to avert any rush to obtain them, as there is an unmistakable and clear increase in consumption of these two materials in winter.

Regrettably, citizens turned this normal appeal by us this year into an absolutely unjustified crisis, which they themselves created, as white oil and liquid gas are available in large quantities. To meet the citizens' requirements of white oil, liquid gas, and other oil products, we have always depended on studies based upon data and information to help us in the distribution policy followed by the Ministry of Oil and the Oil Products Distribution Corporation. It is well-known that a study of the daily, monthly, and yearly consumption, with the approach of the winter season, makes us fully aware of the quantities that we need to put on the market—quantities that meet the citizens' requirements. Quantities in excess of these requirements are also put on the market. By so doing, we seek to create a balance between quantities on the market and citizens' requirements. Because our reserves of these materials are huge, and because our refineries have not witnessed any decline in the production of these materials, we addressed a request to citizens to secure their supplies of white oil and gas, taking into consideration the storage conditions pertaining to these materials. Furthermore, we stressed the need to rationalize the consumption of this energy and to conserve it from waste and squandering. This call was in line with the other calls and appeals addressed by the other ministries stressing the need to rationalize all forms of consumption to break the ring of the unjust economic blockade imposed on our country by the imperialist and Zionist quarters. When we addressed the appeal, we expected citizens to respond properly and wisely, because we have abundant quantities of these materials. However, our estimates in this regard proved to be ill-founded. Immediately after the citizens heard our appeal, we were confronted with an artificial problem. Filling stations, white oil, and gas stations were the scenes of severe crowding unprecedented even during the eight-year war. In all frankness, we should say that this undermined the proper performance of these stations and confused us—not because of a decline in our huge reserves of these two materials, but because of problems related to our distribution capacity. Our transportation capabilities are designed to meet the citizens' requirements under normal circumstances. It is true that we are not accustomed to working 24 hours a day. We did this only in difficult circumstances. This time, and to secure the citizens' requirements, we worked day and night to meet these unexpected demands. I am saying that these demands were unexpected because we, through the data and statistics available to us, are well aware of the Iraqi citizens' requirements of these materials. To reassure citizens, we worked day and night, nonstop. This enabled us to meet the great demand. Thus, we managed to decrease demand and return it to normal. Fuel stations are now completely stocked with butane gas bottles and white oil. From time to time, they have very little demand for gas and white oil.

I would point out that we now have enough oil and gas supplies to last a long time, as shown by the fact that filling and fuel stations are now full of these products. Further, our factories are operating at full production capacity, which should more than satisfy demand. Once again, I call on brother citizens to cut back on consumption. I am positive that the stocks in every Iraqi home will last for a reasonable period. I reassure the citizens that supplies of oil and gas will keep flowing to meet the needs of the public.

Namir Tawfiq al-Mufti, director general of the Oil Products Distribution corporation says: Despite the fact that we have secured all the needs through other distribution outlets to meet all contingencies, I emphasize that our agencies will not suffer any disruption from now on—not even during the coming winter or during any season. Following is a breakdown of the consumption of liquid gas in 1989 and 1990, showing that, within the space of five days we managed to put distribution back on an even keel. The table shows that consumption normalized in the middle of this month.

A comparison of the liquid gas consumption in Iraq providing figures for the years 1989 and 1990:

Day	Gas Consumption by Bottle		Increase Percentage
	1989	1990	
1 September	148,300	271,300	+ 83 percent
2 September	216,800	316,100	+ 46 percent
3 September	230,400	328,600	+ 43 percent
4 September	238,200	333,300	+ 40 percent
5 September	233,800	324,200	+ 39 percent
6 September	229,400	311,700	+ 36 percent
7 September	231,400	301,800	+ 30 percent
8 September	201,600	304,500	+ 51 percent
9 September	222,600	290,300	+ 30 percent
10 September	241,900	289,000	+ 19 percent
11 September	244,200	285,600	+ 17 percent
12 September	246,700	278,200	+ 13 percent
13 September	240,800	270,000	+ 12 percent
14 September	249,000	227,000	- 9 percent
15 September	204,700	321,100	+ 13 percent
Total	3,379,800	4,362,700	+ 29 percent

The Oil Ministry conducted a field tour of the filling and fuel and distribution stations to see the situation firsthand. We were escorted on the tour by Mr. Namir Tawfiq al-Mufti and visited the Al-Muthanna white oil and gas filling and distribution station. As we toured the facility, we found it was filled with cylinders of white oil and gas. The director general of the station says its sales have reached 1,500 gas cylinders per day, and during the days of the contrived crisis, reached 4,500. The same applies to white oil. Strangely enough, we did not see one citizen come to have empty gas bottles replaced or to get white oil with the exception of a Mr. Jamal-al-Din Najib Sa'ur, who came to the station to have two empty gas bottles replaced by two full ones. He said that the crisis was contrived and uncalled for, and that gas and white oil are available in abundance. However, he urged that gas bottles should be more tightly closed, as some develop leaks thus leading to waste. And certain white oil transport cars do not conform to the Ministry specifications. For instance, some of them fail to carry the registration plate provided by the Oil Ministry. Others sell at prices other than the fixed prices. Another citizen, retired teacher Rashid Majid Hamid, who arrived at the station to have a gas bottle replaced, said he regretted that some members of the public, have been acting illogically, thus disrupting the gas and white oil distribution process. He urged all citizens to refrain from hoarding, especially gas and oil bottles to spare the economy and avoid the attendant risks. The oil and gas transport vehicles of the ministry are cruising the streets, and there are filling and fuel stations and other vehicles. We then went to the Palestine Street filling station, the daily sales of which averaged 7,000 cylinders during the contrived crisis. The figure has now fallen to 250 per day, and has been coming down gradually. When we called at the station, it had some 4,000 bottles ready for sale. The white oil storage tanks were also full. The station works around the clock to pump gas and white oil to the public. In addition, there are two major centers situated in the al-'Adl and al-Tha'libah complexes.

The tour continued until we arrived at filling station no. 55 in the city of Saddam. In an interview with the paper, station manager Qasim Rahimah Mahmud said that the station's white oil sales during the rush period reached 70,000 liters per day, whereas we used to sell approximately 5,000 liters per day under normal conditions.

Mahmud added: Imagine the wide disparity between the two figures. I am addressing an appeal to the brother citizens, asking them to refraim from storing more than their actual requirements. The station manager expressed his thanks to the Ministry of Oil for the cooperation that the station receives from ministry officials regarding the ministry's continued white oil and gas supplies and also the continuous maintenance the ministry performs on the station's machines and tanks to ensure the smooth and undelayed flow and distribution of these materials to citizens.

Some station managers we met told us their concerns and worries. They said that most of the trucks at their disposal that were designed to transport white oil to citizens broke down because of their continuous operation. They added that they most often buy spare parts and tires at very high prices. In light of this situation, the Ministry of Oil allowed horse-drawn carts to distribute white oil, provided they meet a host of specifications spelled out by the Oil Products Distribution Corporation. Some of these managers said: In many cases, we refuse to supply these carts with white oil because of the absence of a number plate or because of a leak in the white oil tanker mounted on these carts. This causes problems in oil and gas supplies in some areas where these carts are the major means for distributing gas and oil supplies. Some citizens come to the stations with cans and other containers to get their oil, which often leak during transportation. Most of the equipment breaks down because it is used more than 5,000 times a day, when it was actually designed to be used to ensure a continuous flow of oil [sentence as published]. The presence of a large and suitable tank at each house ensures the conservation and storage of oil. Such a tank is better than the very small containers for conserving white oil.

Very often, we receive complaints from citizens saying that some cart owners demand a price very much higher than the prescribed price. When such violations are committed, the Ministry of Oil urges citizens to call the following two telephone numbers: 8876278 and 8883633 so that the proper measures can be taken against the violaters. To make this possible, the ministry should be provided with the plate number of the violating cart. During this tour, we discovered that the rush for oil and gas purchases has vanished completely and that the Ministry of Oil has managed to overcome the problem.

Panel Sets Produce Prices 26 Sep-2 Oct

JN2809125090 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 26 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] During its meeting the day before yesterday, the central committee responsible for pricing agricultural products set the prices of agricultural products for consumers and producers.

This covers the minimum and maximum wholesale prices and the maximum retail price applicable as of today, Wednesday, and up to 2 October. Following is a table providing details:

Name of Product	Wholesale price	Retail price	
	Fils/kg	Fils/kg	Fils/kg
	minimum	maximum	maximum
Tomato	650	675	800
Potato	650	725	850
Green pepper	200	250	350
Chili pepper	250	300	400
Eggplant	200	225	300
Green cucumber	250	300	400
White cucumber	150	200	300
Types of pumpkin	300	350	450
Garlic	1250	1300	1500
Dried onion	300	350	450
Sweet onions	200	250	350
Okra	500	550	650
Runner beans	400	450	550
Watermelons	/	/	150
Melons	/	/	250
Large apples	1200	1300	1500
Other apples	750	800	1000
Plums	800	850	1000

Name of Product	Wholesale price	Retail price	
	Fils/kg	Fils/kg	Fils/kg
	minimum	maximum	maximum
Peaches	1000	1100	1300
Pears	450	500	600
Special kinds of			
grapes	550	600	750
Other kinds of			
grapes	300	350	450
Pomegranates	300	400	500
Barhi dates	1000	1100	1300
Zuhdi dates 350	400	500	
Ripe dates of other			
varieties	750	850	1000
1 kg of chicken to individual	4000		
consumer			
A carton of table eggs to individual consumer	4250		

AL-THAWRAH Cites Bush's 'Poor Chances'

JN2809120290 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep.28, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad today stressed that the American policy was never based on a principled outlook respecting or believing in peace and stability or rights of peoples in freedom and self-determination.

A daily editorial said that the United States was and still is dealing with international issues from the concept of imposing domination on peoples through ensuring superiority of the American instruments and pointed out that America employed all political, military, economic and information weapons in its wars against peoples.

The daily further added that despite the gigantic American information machine, America was unable to justify all wars of overt and covert intervention in most parts of the world and could not find a moral and principled basis for its policies of intervention in peoples issues.

It pointed out that the U.S. Administration while claiming keenness on the international legitimacy and international law tries to give a cover to its occupation of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the multi-type blockade on Iraq through the international resolutions which it had imposed on the Security Council during the stage of its individual control.

The daily further said that the imperialist American policy was after having the Arab homeland a region revolving in the sphere of its influence, the thing we reject and resist together with all the honesty of the Arab nation and its masses. [sentence as received]

It said that if Bush, the enemy of Arabs would try his poor chances, then he and his collaborator Israel and traitor agents would proceed to a catastrophe and sustain a comprehensive defeat.

It concluded that Iraq and the Arabs resolve was based on justice and legitimacy while that of Bush was based on invasion, starving children and occupation of sanctities and al-Quds [Jerusalem].

Consular Ties With USSR 'Important Step'

TA0110112890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser, has said that the establishment of full consular ties between Israel and the USSR is an important step forward in the relations between the two countries. He told our political correspondent Arye Golan that progress has recently been made in terms of economic, commercial, and now diplomatic relations. Shamir's adviser expressed the hope that the day will soon come when full diplomatic relations will be established between the two countries.

Direct Flights Not Approved

TA0110093990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Oct 90 p 4

[Editorial: "In the Soviet Interest"]

[Text] It may simply be an indication of disarray in the once-monolithic Soviet government, or a sign that President Gorbachev's obvious desire to normalize relations with Israel is being fought tooth and nail by the Arabists of the Soviet Foreign Office. Whatever the reason, it was disappointing to hear Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze announce yesterday, following his meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi, that the matter of direct Moscow-Israel flights, which Mr. Gorbachev had personally authorized, was a "complicated matter" which "needs work."

The good news was Shevardnadze's decision to elevate relations between the countries to an "independent consulate-general" level, another step towards resumption of full diplomatic relations and one which will enable Israel to display its State flag and emblem in Moscow. That these steps are not mere gestures of goodwill but calculated moves to further Soviet interests makes them no less welcome. On the contrary, the Soviets' belief that normalizing relations with Israel improves their prospects of participating in the Middle East peace process and of attracting investments betrays a sense of realism and the shunning of old rigidities. The new thinking is also reflected in the report that Gorbachev had rejected President Mubarak's demand to end aliya because he trusted Israel's assurances that immigrants were not being directed to the administered territories. It is a refreshing attitude which can only bode well.

The direct flights issue will undoubtedly soon be resolved. A commercial agreement was reached between El Al and Aeroflot almost a year ago, but it failed to receive Soviet government approval. Since then the traffic of immigrants has benefited Hungarian and Romanian airlines. It is in the Soviet interest to benefit from it too.

Cabinet Discusses Soviet Immigration, Absorption

TA3009123390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] I know that Israel does not settle immigrants in the territories, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. This was revealed to the cabinet today by Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, who reviewed his talks in the Soviet Union. Immigrant Absorption Mnister Yitzhaq Peretz cautioned that the reserve of rental apartments has been depleted and that immigrants might be left in the street. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Today's weekly cabinet session dealt at length with the question of immigration and its absorption. Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav briefed the prime minister about his phone conversation with the Soviet finance minister in which the latter promised to start operating direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv next month. Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz said this will significantly improve immigration conditions, and he noted that the technical details have not yet been resolved.

Did Israel's pledge to the Soviet Union that immigrants would not be settled in the territories pave the way for the direct flights? According to Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i's review of his talks in Moscow, the Soviets voiced no anxieties on this issue. Moda'i reported on a phone conversation between Gorbachev and Mubarak in which the latter argued that immigrants were being directed to the territories and asked Gorbachev to end immigration, but Gorbachev told him: I have looked into the matter, and immigrants are not being sent to the territories.

Along with the positive reports, concern was voiced in the cabinet session about the future. Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz today took on the role of the cabinet's prophet of doom.

[Peretz] In fact, when it comes to rental apartments, we have reached the bottom of the barrel. I asked the prime minister and all other ministers to take note of the fact that today I cautioned the cabinet that we have reached the bottom of the barrel as far as the reserves of rental apartments, and if immediate solutions are not found in terms of temporary accommodations, we might find ourselves with thousands of immigrants stranded at Ben-Gurion Airport and no place to send them. [end recording]

USSR Urged To Take Action in Peace Process

TA0110120290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Oct 90 p A3

[Report by New York correspondent Ran Dagoni]

[Text] "I told Shevardnadze: We expect you to take action to terminate the state of war between us and the Arab countries," Foreign Minister David Levi told

MA'ARIV yesterday at the end of his meeting with his Soviet counterpart at the UN Center.

This is the first time that an Israeli minister has called on the Soviet Union to become actively involved in the peace process in the Middle East. To date, Israel has categorically objected to any such intervention.

The foreign minister was delighted about the establishment of consular relations between Israel and the Soviet Union, but he seemed to be particularly proud of his efforts to include Moscow in the peace process in the region.

"I told Shevardnadze: Ultimately, the world's fate is determined by people," Levi said. "What the Soviet Union and its leaders are doing now is revolutionary. If we apply the same approach to all areas of common interest, it is obvious that we expect the Soviets to take action to attain peace.

"I told him that just as the United States undertook to get the ball rolling on the question of terminating the state of war ,it must be clear that this is also the duty of the Soviet Union," Levi said.

"I went on to tell him: If you have friends in the Middle East who describe themselves as our enemies, it does not mean we should treat each other as rivals. We must exchange views on this issue so we will feel that you do not see us as illegitimate friends only because you have good friends in the Middle East."

Levi went on to recount that Shevardnadze agreed with him, and that is how the mechanism for exchanging views and searching for ways to establish peace came into being.

Levi-Arens Tension 'Exploited' by Washington

TA3009101490 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Sep 90 p A8

[Editorial: "An Ugly Game"]

[Text] An ugly game was played in Washington last weekend during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi. The name of the game: kidney punches and low blows.

Speaking with Mr. Levi, Mr. Baker expressed his rage at the way the Israeli defense minister and the director general of his ministry submitted a request for $1 billion in emergency aid. The U.S. secretary of state is more sensitive to the way the request was submitted than to the request itself. This being the situation, the fact that Mr. Baker chose to voice accusations and insults aimed at Moshe Arens and David 'Ivri in the ear of the Israeli foreign minister, rather than directly to them, is bewildering. Is this in line with diplomatic protocol?

Such an irregularity or slip-up would deserve merely a marginal remark were it not for the suspicion that in this game, the relations between Ministers David Levi and Moshe Arens were being unduly exploited. The rivalry between the two is well known to all, and it is certainly noted in State Department files as well. What is shameful in the entire game, however, is the assistance—albeit indirect—extended by the "Israeli side."

Reports of "tension" at the Levi-Baker meeting and the subsequent leaks bear the "fingerprints" of Israelis whom political elements in Jerusalem have defined as "elements aware of the Baker-Levi talks;" the political elements believed them to be "members of the foreign minister's entourage."

This game is not merely ugly; it is dangerous. The arena for the Likud's "wars of the Jews" should remain the convention hall in Tel Aviv's Fairgrounds; it should not be transferred to Washington.

Shamir To Reduce Tensions

TA3009092790 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Sep 90 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will act to reduce the tension between Foreign Minister David Levi and Defense Minister Moshe Arens to make cooperation between the two possible.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau saw no special significance in the reports leaked from New York regarding Secretary of State Baker's purported criticism of the way the defense establishment acted to secure immediate aid in view of the Gulf crisis. The sources noted that as a result of Arens' visit to Washington the United States agreed to grant part of Israel's demands for vital defense equipment items. The sources pointed out that the foreign minister's visit, on the other hand, bore no fruit. [passage omitted]

Political sources in Jerusalem stressed that Israel will persist in its adamant objection to the arms deal with Saudi Arabia in view of its crucial impact on Israel's security. The political sources took a grave view of the U.S. State Department's criticism on this matter.

Papers Review Levi's Talks With Baker

TA2809120490

[Editorial report] All Israeli newspapers on 28 September carry front-page banner headlined reports on Foreign Minister David Levi's discussions with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in New York Wednesday. While all papers report that the discussions centered on Israel's request for U.S. guarantees for a $400 million loan for immigrant housing, only MA'ARIV reports a compromise was reached over the controversial issue. The reports also refer to Secretary Baker's "anger" over the latest Israeli military requests to enable it to maintain its strategic edge in view of the large proposed arms deal with Saudi Arabia.

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew in a report by Ran Dagoni from New York on pages A1 and A2 quotes Israeli diplomatic sources as saying that the dispute between Israel and the United States over the loan guarantee was resolved before dawn by a joint committee of the two countries. The report said that under the proposed compromise Foreign Minister Levi would write a letter to Baker "reiterating Israel's promises to the United states that funds secured through guarantees would not be used beyond the Green Line." It quotes an Israeli source as saying that "the United States has, in fact, accepted the Israeli position that there is no need for any addition to the assurances provided in the past." The report, however quoted a source in Washington as saying that the White House, at Chief of Staff John Sununu's prodding, was not likely to accept the Levi letter.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew in a report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Ori Nir, on pages A1 and A8 says that the reason Israel has not given up its request for U.S. guarantees for the housing loans, despite all the obstacles the United States has put up, is because Jerusalem plans to request from Washington in the coming months a guarantee on additional loans for immigrant absorption to the tune of "billions of dollars." It said the new Israeli request would be made early next year prior to the discussions on the 1992 U.S. budget.

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English in a report from Washington by political correspondent David Makovsky on pages one and 13 quotes "senior officials" as saying that Secretary Baker indicated to Minister Levi that "in the event of an Iraqi attack on Israel the U.S. will come to its defense," but that Baker declined a Levi request to say so publicly, since that "would bring Israel into the focus of events and would divert attention from the international coalition arrayed against Saddam Husayn." But the article said Baker opposed efforts to forgive Israel's $4.5 billion debt in outstanding military loans.

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew in a report by Miryam Fuchs and Hemi Shalev on page one quotes political sources in Jerusalem as expressing "a mixture of anger and disbelief" at reports that in his meeting with Levi, Secretary Baker expressed indignation at Defense Minister Moshe Arens for his activities to foil the arms deal with Saudi Arabia and his request last week for an additional $1 billion in military aid in the wake of the Gulf crisis. The report said, however, that most of the consternation in Jerusalem was directed at Foreign Minister Levi for making Baker's reported remarks public and that the report itself was viewed with some incredibility. DAVAR quoted sources in Jerusalem as saying that there is currently in the United States a feeling that war might break out any day in the Gulf and "that this is therefore not the right time for a public rift with the administration." The sources described Baker's complaints against Arens, if they were really made, as "ridiculous." They said the request for supplementary military aid was "due to the Gulf crisis and was partly agreed to by the administration," and that the criticism of Arens' activity against the Saudi arms deal was baseless. "Israel had believed that it could not oppose the original $2.5 billion arms deal with Riyadh, but its position changed when the real scope of the planned deal became clear. The sources pointed out that in his Washington talks, Arens did not call for the cancellation of the entire Saudi deal, but merely urged a study of its repercussions on Israel's security.

On page A2 of MA'ARIV, 'Imanu'el Rosen and Avino'am Bar-Yosef quote defense establishment sources as saying that Baker's attack on Arens proves that despite the low profile Israel has taken over the Gulf crisis, many obstacles can be expected over requests for supplementary military aid and for leasing military systems. They said that Arens' bureau was greatly perplexed over Baker's harsh attack on the minister as well as on David 'Ivri, the director general of the Defense Ministry, but refused to comment publicly on the incident.

Both MA'ARIV and DAVAR quote political sources as saying that Baker's criticism of Arens was deliberately leaked to Israeli correspondents by Levi's entourage in New York and that it reflects even more the state of Arens-Levi relations than relations with the U.S. Administration.

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew in a report from the United States by Shim'on Schiffer and Rami Tal on pages 1 and 6 says that Washington is studying a proposal Levi made to Baker for an Israeli military delegation to go to the United States to study the impact of the proposed $7.5 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia on President Bush's promise to maintain Israel's military superiority.

Avi Bnayahu on page 2 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew says that since there were people in the political establishment and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] who over the past two weeks warned that the United States would not be able to accept Israeli opposition to the Saudi arms deal, the protests by Secretary Baker and Deputy Secretary Lawrence Eagleburger over Arens' declarations did not come as a surprise in Jerusalem.

"Ministers and senior officials in Jerusalem must remain coolheaded and walk a 'tightrope' in relations with the United States and in their criticism over arms supplies to Arab countries. While maintaining its 'low profile' policy over the Gulf crisis, Israel must understand that U.S. public opinion and the administration believe that arms supplies to Saudi Arabia are an important aspect of U.S. security, especially since U.S. soldiers have been sent to defend freedom." Bnayahu says, however, that Israel must demand from the Americans strategic parity in the region by increasing military aid to Jerusalem.

Bnayahu calls on the prime minister to intervene in the political confrontation between Arens and Levi, which "could become destructive, especially since it touches upon security matters."

'Serious Clash,' Strike Reported in Territories

TA3009105390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] This morning one resident was killed and 21 were wounded in a serious clash in the village of Jamma'in, near Qalqilyah. The clash was between village residents and Border Police. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that four of the injured are in serious condition. The incident in Jamma'in started when a Border Police jeep entered the village to handle disturbances.

The village resident who was killed is Ahmad Mahmud Shihadah. Youths snatched his body from a Nabulus hospital.

In Rafah, Hamda Malhi Kishta was murdered this morning. This is the fifth person to have been murdered in the Gaza Strip in the past 48 hours. He was murdered upon entering a school where he worked as a janitor. Gaza residents say that he was probably murdered because he was suspected of collaborating with Israel.

A commercial strike is being staged today in the Gaza Strip and in several towns in Judaea and Samaria to express solidarity with the residents of the al-Burayj refugee camp, which has been under curfew since the murder of Amnon Pomerantz.

This morning on David Street in the Old City of Jerusalem a masked youth, probably an Arab, attempted to knife a Jewish youth. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the attempt failed and the assailant fled. Eight suspects were held for questioning.

Gaza Demonstrations Protest Al-Burayj Curfew

TA3009124890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] This afternoon the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] prevented more than 100 members of left-wing parties, mostly from HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], from entering the Gaza Strip to demonstrate sympathy with the residents of the al-Burayj refugee camp, which is under curfew. At the Erez checkpoint several right-wing activists, including Tehiya members, staged a counterdemonstration.

The IDF eventually allowed Knesset Members [MK's] Hashim Mahamid and Tamar Guzansky of HADASH and Husayn Faris of MAPAM [United Workers Party] to reach the refugee camp, but did not allow them in. The IDF also allowed Tehiya member Avi Farhan to reach the al-Burayj gates to present his protest.

At the same time, Arab residents started throwing rocks, and the IDF declared the area a closed military zone and demanded that Farhan leave the site.

Tehiya MK Elyaqim Ha'etzni appealed to the defense minister with a demand to ban the three leftist MK's from entering the al-Burayj refugee camp, in order to prevent riots there.

At this time the three MK's are still at the site, and they are trying to enter the Gaza Strip and cause agitation.

Shamir Discusses Security, Iraq, Immigrants

TA3009183590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today demanded that the Israel Police prevent disturbances in Jerusalem. Mr. Shamir said in the cabinet session that the maintenance of security in Jerusalem must be given utmost priority. Our military correspondent Arye Golan reports on the cabinet session:

The prime minister said there are efforts under way to put the intifadah back in the news. Security in Jerusalem must be given high priority, the prime minister said. He demanded that the Israel Police prevent disturbances in the capital.

Hovering over the session was the Gulf crisis which, according to various assessments, is reaching its moment of truth. The international air blockade has put strong psychological pressure on Saddam Husayn, and the United States is in full control of the air. On land, the Iraqis have massed thousands of tanks and hundreds of thousands of troops in Kuwait and along the border. It was noted in today's cabient session that as far as pronouncements are concerned, Iraq has dropped its threat to attack the oil fields and Israel and gone back to the old statement that Iraq will not be the first one to attack.

Finance Minister Moda'i briefed the cabinet on his talks in Moscow and Washington. It was learned that when Husni Mubarak urged Gorbachev to end Jewish immigration to Israel, the Soviet president replied that after investigating the matter the Soviet Union found that Israel was definitely not settling the immigrants in the territories. The question of the guarantee for the $400 million loan to finance immigrant absorption has not yet been arranged with Washington, Moda'i said, but it is already clear that once this guarantee has been approved Israel will ask the U.S. Administration to underwrite loans worth billions of dollars for the same purpose.

In the wake of reports coming from Foreign Minister Levi's entourage in New York that the U.S. Administration is angry at Defense Minister Arens because of demands he raised in Washington, Prime Minister Shamir remarked that he expects ministers to support each other in their contacts with foreign elements.

Comment Urges Thinking in 'Post-Hashemite' Terms

TA3009113390 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Sep 90 p 7

[Commentary by Sheila Hattis Rolef: "Nostalgia and Reality"]

[Excerpts] Both Prime Minister Shamir and Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin have declared in recent weeks that the survival of Jordan's Hashemite regime is clearly advantageous to Israel. [passage omitted]

This was true as long as the Hashemite kingdom remained stable and strong. Today, its strength and stability are questionable; and any Israeli or American attempt to strengthen it is liable to weaken it even further. In this new situation the question is: What is truly advantageous to Israel? Perhaps it would be easier to state what is disadvantageous to Israel.

Obviously, Iraqi or Syrian entrance into Jordan is against Israel's interests. It is equally obvious that if the Hashemite regime falls, Israel's interests in Jordan will not be served by the rise to power of a fundamentalist regime, since we have no chance of reaching an agreement with a fundamentalist Muslim force. The paradox is that in Jordan such a regime can rise to power through democratic means. The question is how can Israel prevent the continued growth of Jordanian fundamentalist forces. It appears that the only option (which is not ideal, but which represents the least evil) is a radical nonreligious force, with which Israel will have to try to reach some modus vivendi so as not to be forced to rely on hostile outside powers (as King Husayn is being forced to do these very days). Those who believe that a nonreligious radical force can rise in Jordan without the involvement of Palestinians—who are the absolute majority in Jordan—do not understand the realities of our life. In fact, it appears at this moment that, in one way or another, the Palestinian national movement will be an integral part of this force.

Israel should naturally wait for the conclusion of the Gulf crisis to see in what shape the PLO will emerge, but there is no guarantee that Israel will realize its ardent wish to see that organization finally disappear from the face of the earth as a genuine power. Despite all its tactical and strategic mistakes, despite its stupidity, the PLO may very well remain not merely the element with which Israel will have to negotiate the future of the territories, but also the element which Israel will need to become the decisive force inside Jordan—not because it is ideal, but because in the current situation, it is the least evil. If the PLO manages, nevertheless, to destroy itself in the current crisis, another radical political organization is certain to rise in its place, which will probably be no different from the PLO in substance and methods, and Israel will have to reach some kind of arrangement with it.

The significance of this is that Israel must now think in post-Hashemite terms. This does not mean that it has to assist in liquidating the Jordanian royal regime or fall for the slogan "Jordan is Palestine." As long as the royal regime survives on its own steam, it is welcome to stay. It should be clear, however, that in the current situation the king's regime cannot be sustained against the will of the country's population for a long time. Israel will err if it persists in thinking about reality in nostalgic terms. True, the Hashemites served Israel's interests in the past, but this is no longer relevant. The sooner we start thinking in post-Hashemite terms—despite all the inconvenience—the better for us.

France Sees No Link in Mideast Crises

TA3009102890 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Sep 90 p 5

["Exclusive" report from France by Gid'on Kouts]

[Excerpts] In a meeting on 27 September, French Prime Minister Michel Rocard told Israeli Ambassador to France 'Ovadya Sofer that France sees no link between the Gulf crisis and the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Rocard said that France would take no stand that could be interpreted as an attempt to force on Israel an interlocutor it does not want. Israeli political sources have said that despite the flexibility toward Iraq displayed in President Mitterrand's address to the UN General Assembly, in which he called on Iraq only to declare its "intention" to evacuate Kuwait, as far as Israel is concerned, the speech contained an expression of positive developments in French policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian problem. [passage omitted]

At the meeting the two also concluded the agenda of Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to France next month. The visit will begin on 29 October and will last three days.

Shomron 'Not Taking Any Risks' With Iraq

TA2909203390 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron by military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shlonsky] It has been two months since the crisis erupted in the Persian Gulf. Is a military confrontation in the Gulf more imminent today than a month ago?

[Shomron] We must realize that the psychological aspect plays a very important role in such a conflict. I think the Iraqi president knows that starting a war would be an irrational move, but he may reach such a decision if he is suicidal or irrational. I think that the inclusion of Israel in the U.S.-led coalition has a certain logic, but if the man were to weigh the pros and cons—including the threat of opening another battlefront with Israel, the strongest country in the Middle East—then he would not make such a move unless he were irrational.

[Shlonsky] Do you think Israel would be involved if hostilities were to erupt? Could the hostilities start with Israel?

[Shomron] I think that is very unlikely, but we are not taking any risks. We are getting ready for the eventuality that this guy, this weird Iraqi leader, may make an irrational move.

[Shlonsky] The situation escalated this week in the wake of Saddam's threats to strike at the oil fields and Israel if the food embargo against Iraq is stepped up. Are you taking this threat seriously?

[Shomron] Yes. I assume this threat is a result of the sanctions against him, which have grown tighter and more effective as weeks go by. Consequently, his psychological warfare has become harsher. I do not know what the man really has in mind, I can only say what makes more sense. We are also taking the less likely possibilities into consideration, and we are preparing accordingly.

[Shlonsky] What about the possibility that the military confrontation in the Gulf might be started by the United States? Is this more plausible today than it was one or two months ago?

[Shomron] I cannot tell. I can state for a fact that the U.S. force is in a better position today than two weeks or a month ago, and that it will be in an even better position two weeks from now. I do not know whether a decision has been made in the United States. Neither am I certain that such a decision has been made.

[Shlonsky] Do you also favor a military confrontation which would lead to the downfall of Saddam Husayn and his regime over some compromise political solution which would leave Saddam in power?

[Shomron] I do not want to make suggestions to the coalition facing Saddam Husayn. I say that as far as the State of Israel is concerned it would really be very unfortunate if at the end of the crisis Saddam Husayn were to remain in power with his military might, weapons, and influence over the Arab world. In my opinion, as far as we are concerned, this would entail a far greater threat.

[Shlonsky] Have we made this position clear to the Americans?

[Shomron] Yes, definitely.

[Shlonsky] To what extent is Israel coordinated with the United States on the Gulf crisis?

[Shomron] I would say that we are allies that exchange views and information. At the end of the day, however, I think that when faced with a threat to its citizens, every country in the world would see to its own interests.

[Shlonsky] What you are saying in fact is that if, for example, several missiles were to fall in our country, Israel would not await U.S. approval to retaliate against Iraq even if the timing were not exactly convenient to the Americans.

[Shomron] Look, I do not want to give a specific answer to your question. I will only say that despite our wish to coordinate everything with the United States, if we feel that the citizens of the State of Israel are in danger we will react according to our own interests. [passage omitted]

Lahd's Decision To Release Shiites Welcomed

TA0110111890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] A short while ago, General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], said on the Voice of the South radio that he is about to release several dozen Shiite detainees held in al-Khiyam Prison. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that General Lahd stressed that this would be a gesture to the leaders of villages in the security zone and would mark the birthday of Prophet Muhammad. He hopes that the release of the detainees will contribute to solving the problem of the hostages in south Lebanon.

Dani Nave, the defense minister's adviser, told our political correspondent Arye Golan that Israel welcomes the move and joins General Lahd's hope that this will help advance a solution for the problem of POW's and hostages.

Iraq's 'Aziz Arrives in Amman 29 Sep

Meets King Husayn

JN2909122790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1207 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Amman today on a brief working visit and immediately met with King Husayn. An informed source said 'Aziz bears a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the Jordanian monarch dealing with the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

An Arab diplomatic source recently said that King Husayn, Moroccan King Hassan II, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid are waiting for a written answer from the Iraqi president in reply to a message they addressed to him at the conclusion of a tripartite summit they held in Rabat 10 days ago. The message demanded that Saddam Husayn agree in principle to the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait within a comprehensive solution of the crisis. In case Baghdad agreed in principle to withdraw, a committee of wise men [lajnat 'uqala'], including Arab leaders from both the pro- and anti-Iraqi sides would be formed, with the aim of drawing up an Arab formula enjoying international support for the solution of the Gulf crisis. No information is available on whether the message that 'Aziz is carrying is the one that the three leaders are waiting for.

King Receives Saddam Letter

JN2909151390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 29 Sep (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has received a letter from his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn dealing with latest developments in the Gulf crisis. The letter was handed over by Mr Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, when he called on his majesty at al-Nadwah Palace today.

Attending the meeting were Messrs Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, head of the Arab Desk at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman. All had lunch with his majesty the king. Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Amman earlier in the day, and has since left for Baghdad.

Letter Replies to Message

JN2909162090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1603 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] It has been learned from an Arab diplomatic source in Amman that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has communicated Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's reply to the leaders of Jordan, Morocco, and Algeria. Meanwhile, a Jordanian official source said that Tariq 'Aziz delivered a message to King Husayn from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

It is to be recalled that the Jordanian and Moroccan kings and the Algerian president sent a written message to the Iraqi president at the end of their summit in Rabat 19-20 September asking him for a commitment to withdraw from Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia Closes Border to Jordanian Goods

JN0110120990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Oct 90 pp 1, 12

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] AL-DUSTUR learned from government sources yesterday that Saudi Arabia has prevented commodities of Jordanian origin from entering Saudi Arabia across its border. The sources added that this was initiated yesterday when Saudi Arabia sent back 25 Jordanian trucks loaded with different Jordanian commodities.

A refrigerator-truck driver, Ahmad Muhammad Mustafa, said the Saudi border was closed to Jordanian trucks and refrigerator trucks, while refrigerator trucks of other countries were allowed to cross the border. He added that a wave of anger had swept truck drivers who carry goods and vegetables that would be spoiled on the road, particularly as the ban came without prior warning.

Trucks Bound for Saudi Arabia, Gulf Turned Away

JN0110145690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] A security source in Amman has said that Jordan today prevented trucks bound for Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states from entering Jordan. This measure is being taken in response to a Saudi decision preventing Jordanian trucks from entering Saudi Arabia or transiting Saudi territory en route to other Gulf states.

Saudis Said Deporting Jordanians, Palestinians

JN2809115990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Sep 90 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] Amman—The Saudi authorities have begun to implement a plan to deport Jordanians and Palestinians working in Saudi Arabia, arrivals from Riyadh say.

Direct as well as indirect measures are being used to harass the Jordanians and Palestinians and get them to leave the country in view of the responsible and pan-Arab positions of Jordan and the PLO toward the current situation in the Arabian Gulf and their rejection of the U.S. and colonialist occupation of the Arabian Peninsula.

Among the direct measures is one to strip the Palestinians of the privileges they have been enjoying since the disaster of 1948; namely, that they need not have a Saudi sponsor. The instructions recently issued by the Saudi Interior Ministry abolish all privileges, which have basically been enjoyed by Palestinians and Yemenis.

The Saudi authorities have instructed the various ministries and government institutions not to renew the contracts of many Jordanians and Palestinians when these expire, and some workers who took leave were informed that they should not return. The Saudi Government, furthermore, instructed its consulates in the Arab countries to stop issuing entry visas to nationals of the countries that failed to support Saudi policy allowing U.S. troops into Arab lands in the Gulf.

It was noted that the Saudi authorities began to hire Egyptians to replace the returning Jordanians and Palestinians.

Among the indirect measures, landlords have begun to raise rents unreasonably high to force the Jordanians and Palestinians to leave the country. Moreover, Saudi universities, in an unusual move, have stopped accepting the number of Jordanian and Palestinian students they used to accept. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Recounts Saudi Expulsion Order

JN2809122190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Sep 90 pp 1, 15

[By Khulud al-Ja'uni]

[Excerpt] Jordanian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Dr. Nasir al- Batayinah returned to Amman yesterday morning. He was recalled by the Jordanian Government in protest over the unjustified Saudi measures closing the office of the Jordanian military attache and cutting down the number of employees at the Jordanian Embassy in Riyadh and the General Consulate in Jeddah.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR in the royal lounge of Queen 'Alia International Airport, Dr. al-Batayinah said the reason for what happened is known. The Saudi Government asked for the deportation of the military attache, Qablan Mar'i, accusing him of engaging in activities beyond his diplomatic work. The accusation, of course, was not convincing to us because the attache was doing his job in an optimal way and as part his official mission.

Dr. al-Batayinah added: We tried our best to refute this accusation and know the truth behind it. But two weeks later, things escalated; they summoned me and asked for the deportation of the military attache, the closure of his office, and the reduction of the embassy staff in Riyadh to four in addition to the head of the mission and of the General Consulate in Jeddah to four plus the head of the mission.

He went on to say: The Jordanian Government tried to convince the Saudi authorities that the measure was unjustifiable, but the Saudis did not listen, and they asked me on Tuesday to follow through with their instructions. The Jordanian Government was not convinced and it recalled the ambassador in protest of this Saudi measure. [passage omitted]

Prince Discusses Crisis With Baker, Shevardnadze

JN2909144690 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1419 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] New York, 29 Sep (PETRA)—His Highness Crown Prince Hasan conferred in New York last night with U.S. State Secretary James Baker and USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to spell out Jordan's stance on the Gulf crisis and the need to find a quick, peaceful way out.

His highness also explained the economic hardship experienced by Jordan as a result of the crisis. Before the meeting, Mr. Baker said there was universal appreciation of Jordan's economic straits, pointing out that attempts are being made by many nations to help Jordan overcome the hardship.

He stressed Jordan's strategic location in the region. The Soviet foreign minister noted that the meeting with his highness the crown prince was held because the situation has grown very tense.

Meets Quayle, Scowcroft

JN2909170490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle received in his office yesterday morning His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. They undertook a general review of the Gulf crisis. His highness explained Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis and its endeavors to find a peaceful way out.

His highness also explained Jordan's economic difficulties arising from its compliance with UN Security Council reslolutions on the Gulf crisis. His highness briefed Mr. Quayle on the inconvience experienced by Jordan coping with a considerable number of arrivals from Iraq and Kuwait.

His highness also received at his residence in the U.S. capital Mr. Brent Scowcroft, the U.S. President's national security adviser. They exchanged views on the Gulf crisis. His highness briefed him on Jordan's efforts toward a peaceful resolution of the crisis, noting Jordan's problems arising from its compliance with pertinent UN Security Council resolutions. Attending the meeting was Mr. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Government To Comply With UN Resolution No. 670

JN2609120590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Replying to a question by the correspondent of PETRA-JNA, a spokesman for the Transportation Ministry said the Jordanian Government is aware that UN Security Council Resolution No. 670 of 1990 is mandatory.

Consequently, the Civil Aviation Authority and the other competent organs will implement this resolution in conformity with the mandatory UN resolutions.

Food Supplies in Besieged Areas Said Plentiful

NC2809123090 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn met at B'abda Palace today with Ministers Staff Major Generals 'Isam Abu-Jamrah and Edgard Ma'luf. The discussion focused on the latest developments and ways to deal with the siege.

Following the meeting, Maj. Gen. Abu-Jamrah emphasized that there are enough supplies of the basic food commodities. He added that so far, we do not need any commodity, and this will remain so for a long time, longer than you imagine. Bread as well as all the basic food commodities will remain in supply. [passage omitted]

In an interview published in today's issue of AL-ANWAR newspaper, Gen. 'Awn emphasized that the people will overthrow those who chose to besiege and starve them. They will move once again to condemn the assassinations of the citizens whether by [word indistinct], bullets, or by displacing them until they emigrate. Gen. 'Awn declared that the siege and the starvation will not make the angry people kneel down, and stressed that there can be no dialogue under the grip of the siege.

'Tens of Thousands' Demonstrate Support for 'Awn

NC3009170390 Paris AFP in English 1454 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, Sept 30 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of people demonstrated their support for Lebanese Christian military leader General Michel 'Awn and their opposition to a blockade imposed by Syrian-backed President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The rally was held at the B'abda presidential palace where Gen. 'Awn has his headquarters. Organizers put the crowd at 200,000 but there was no independent confirmation.

Since Friday, Mr. al-Hirawi's troops have imposed a blockade of al-Matn, a 300-square-kilometre (120-sq.-mile) region controlled by the general that stretches northeast of Beirut.

The road leading to B'abda, dubbed the "people's palace" by supporters of Gen. 'Awn, was filled with cars and buses provided by organizers of the rally.

"Your presence today is the greatest challenge to those encircling us," he told the crowd. "We are battling for Lebanon's sovereignty against a government that represents foreign interests and wants to eliminate its people."

The crowd reacted with cries of, "With our blood, with our soul, we will defend you, general." [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Says Muslims Trained To Sabotage U.S.

NC2809151890 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Beirut, Sept 28 (AFP)—The spiritual leader of Lebanon's Shiite fundamentalists said his followers were teaching Muslims to sabotage the "U.S. scheme of things" in the Middle East in the wake of the Gulf crisis. "When Muslims reject the U.S. presence and policy they must think of ways to counter America, but how, when and where will be determined by developments," said Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

"Faced with the mobilisation of U.S. forces ... we say that the small can destroy the games of the big," he said of the multi-national troop build-up spearheaded by the United States after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last month. "The small can't destroy a house but they can make it untidy, and we're teaching Muslims to sabotage America's scheme of things."

In the interview Thursday, he reaffirmed his rejection of the Iraqi invasion and support for the Kuwaiti people's right to self-determination. But he added that Saudi Arabia—where most of the U.S. forces are deployed—and other Gulf states were not in any danger or threatened by Iraq despite President Saddam Husayn's "impulsive nature."

Shaykh Fadlallah said he did not believe there would a war in the Gulf. But he added that "a military confrontation would make Saddam a hero for the Arabs and Muslims and create problems for the United States with the Soviet Union, Europe and Japan, which consider the Gulf region vital."

He suggested Washington may have given a "yellow light" to Iraq to invade Kuwait, as a pretext for the United States to step into the region and intervene militarily to secure its oil supplies and prop up governments that would defend its interests. "We believe a psychological war is being waged to destroy the soul of the Islamic nation, and that is what we aim to counter," Shaykh Fadlallah said.

Syria Reportedly Ready To Supply Oil

NC3009172590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Syria today expressed its readiness to meet Lebanon's needs for oil and oil by-products. This came today during a meeting between the Lebanese and Syrian oil ministers. Lebanese Oil Minister Souren Khanamarian arrived in Damascus today and met with Tanyus Habib, Syrian oil and mineral resources minister. A Syrian official source said that the Syrian minister informed his Lebanese counterpart of Syria's readiness to meet the needs of the Lebanese people for oil and oil by-products in order to prevent any difficulties.

Mansur on Damascus Summit, Ending Rebellion

NC3009185690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Albert Mansur by unidentified Voice of Lebanon correspondent in a hospital in Beirut; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Your Excellency Minister Albert Mansur, we wish you a quick recovery. We have come to see you at the hospital where you are being treated for a sudden indisposition, which has not prevented you from performing your duties. We would like you to comment on several points. First, what is your assessment of the al-Hirawi-al-Asad summit?

[Mansur] It seems that the latest summit between Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi was very fruitful, as it has put the final touches on a solution in Lebanon in the near future. As far as I know, the discussions went beyond the current stage which was deemed to have been resolved; that is, the stage of ending the rebellion [in East Beirut] was deemed to be over and the discussions moved on to the next stage. According to the statements released and the information available to me, I believe that the summit was very successful, that understanding was complete, and that tangible results will appear in the very near future.

[Correspondent] What will Syria's role be in the future stage?

[Mansur] The role that Syria will assume is outlined in the al- Ta'if accord. There is a specific agreement and role for fraternal Syria; namely, to assist the legitimate government to extend the state's authority and reunify the homeland in accordance with a two-year phased plan that will be formulated. [passage omitted] This role provides for support for the legitimate government in restoring Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence.

(Correspondent] What about Syria's role in ending the rebellion?

[Mansur] Also to support the legitimate government. As you know, should we need assistance from fraternal Syria, we will request it. I believe that Syria will extend assistance, as President al-Asad has repeatedly declared. However, we hope that we will not need help. We hope that through the economic pressures which we are applying—measures which are the least harmful to the citizens—we will achieve results, because we do not want to be forced to use one bullet or spill one drop of blood. Incidentally, the measures we have taken do the least harm to the citizens. It is imperative that we take measures in order to end the rebellion. We want to restore our homeland and cannot wait until Michel 'Awn quenches his thirst for Ba'bda Palace. [passage omitted] There is a limit beyond which we cannot wait. The homeland and state must be restored. Our sons want to lead normal lives and go to school. We want to live like people in other countries of the world. This state of affairs cannot continue. We cannot make Michel 'Awn president of the republic. We cannot do that again.

The means we are using do the least harm to the people. I hope that the citizens will realize what we are saying, because the alternative is painful. We are not used to the alternative but Michel 'Awn is. He is the one who started the liberation war and destroyed Lebanon. He initiated the war of abolition and destroyed the eastern area. He bears responsibility for thousands of murders. We are not bloodstained, thank God, which is a source of pride for us. We hope that we will not have to spill one drop of blood. As a result of the measures we are taking, 'Awn will fall, because he is preventing a homeland from reviving. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The crossings have been closed. What are the next steps?

[Mansur] Escalating economic pressure until the rebellion is ended.

[Correspondent] Citizens are asking why they should pay the price.

[Mansur] True, citizens should not pay the price, but there are two ways to end the rebellion: either this way or by using force. We have opted for this way. If the citizens prefer force, I do not advocate it. Michel 'Awn has accustomed them to this way. We do not want to fire guns, but to solve the problem through pressure so we will not be forced to use force. If, however, this madness and behavior governed by animal instincts persist, we will then be forced to resort to the final remedy—namely, cauterization. We will then try to cause as little harm as possible to the citizens. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad, Al-Hirawi Discuss Lebanese Government

JN2909205090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi held a closed session at 1800 today at the Presidential Palace in Damascus. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi joined the meeting at 2030.

The meeting dealt with the situation in Lebanon and the measures taken by the legitimate government to extend its control to all Lebanese areas and to implement the national reconciliation charter. Views were identical on the issues discussed. The meeting also touched on the Gulf crisis and the situation in the region.

The meetings were interrupted by a working dinner hosted by the president in honor of President al-Hirawi. Khaddam and al-Zu'bi attended.

Al-Shar', Baker Meet at UN, Discuss Relations

JN2809183090 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] On the sidelines of the 45th session of the UN General Assembly meetings, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Diya'ullah al-Fattal, the permanent representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations, and Syrian Ambassador to Washington Walid al-Mu'allim. The meeting was also attended on the American side by Mr. Robert Kimmit, undersecretary [of state] for political affairs; John Kelly, undersecretary [of state]for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs; and Dennis Ross, director of the Policy Planning Staff at the Department of State.

During the meeting, talks centered on bilateral relations, developments in the region, and the Gulf crisis. They also touched on the situation in Lebanon.

Complete Support for Lebanese Government Urged

JN2909094090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Damascus, 29 Sep (SANA)—In today's commentary entitled "Lebanese Legitimacy's Bold Step," TISHRIN says: The Lebanese Government's decision to deploy the army in the contact areas and tighten the siege on the rebellious party in an attempt to end the rebellion comes at a time when all peaceful means and ways to end it and all international efforts to convince those who oppose the accord to submit to the people's will and heed what the Lebanese have been eagerly seeking for several years had been exhausted.

The paper stresses that the legitimate Lebanese Government's decision goes beyond a siege to restore the eastern sector to Beirut and free citizens there from killing, destruction, and death.

The paper adds that those who refuse to submit to the people's will should realize its full dimensions especially since these rejectionists are isolated and the outside world has washed its hands of them. If, in the past, they traded with what they called the fate of the Christians, today they will not be able to harp on the same tune after having inflicted the gravest human and material losses on our Christian brothers and threatened to destroy the entire homeland.

TISHRIN concludes that those who oppose the accord and the spread of the state's sovereignty, have no choice today but to submit to the legitimacy if they want survival. This submission must be unconditional since the Lebanese Government not only enjoys widespread Lebanese popular support, but also great Arab and international support, in addition to Syria's absolute support. Syria will always support Lebanon's unity—land, people, and institutions—its national reconciliation, and its return to the Arab fold, safe and sound.

Foreign Minister Meets Counterparts at UN

JN2809160690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] New York—On the sidelines of the 45th session of the United Nation's General Assembly, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met separately with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Greek Foreign Minister Antonios Samaras, Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer, Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar, and Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins.

Talks during these meetings centered on bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the developments resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, in addition to the international situation.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Message From Jordan's Badran

JN2909191290 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1800 GMT 29 sep 90

[Text] Prime minister Mr. Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at his office today Jordanian Minister of Tourism Mr. 'Abd-al- Karim Kabariti. The meeting was attended by Minister of Tourism Mr. 'Adnan Quli and Jordan's Aambassador to Damascus Mr. Nayif al-Hadid. Mr. Kabariti conveyed a message to Mr. al-Zu'bi from Jordanian Prime Minister Mr. Mudar Badran. Mr. al-Zu'bi kindly requested Mr. Kabariti to carry a reply message to the Jordanian premier.

The discussions during the meeting dealt with ways of promoting Syrian-Jordanian tourism in accordance with the decisions of the Higher Jordanian-Syrian Committee.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Sends Message to Childrens' Summit

LD0110055490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0522 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 30, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) has sent today to New York a message on the occasion of the opening of the higher international sessions for children.

The message, while extending best congratulations, has expressed the hope that in the present climate of international understanding, improvement in the East-West relations and solution of regional dispute via peaceful means, convening of such international gatherings for the ensurance of better life conditions for the children is a source of happiness to all specially developing societies, it says.

The RA believes that improvement of children's lot in the developing countries requires immediate international attention. Signs of the imposed war in the life of the Afghan children could be easily observed.

Participation of the high-ranking Afghan delegation at the present gathering proves this fact that the RA is deeply concerned over the present life conditions of the children in the contemporary world.

"We firmly believe that this auspicious gathering would play effective role in meeting the requirements of the world children", the message concludes.

Wakil Meets With Shevardnadze at UN 27 Sep

LD2809194290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, who heads a delegation from the Republic of Afghanistan to the 45th UN General Assembly, met yesterday afternoon with His Excellency Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The Soviet foreign minister discussed the process of contacts and talks between the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States on a political solution to the Afghan issue and on enhancing the role of the United Nations in resolving regional conflicts. He expressed his full support for a peaceful solution to the Afghan issue.

The Republic of Afghanistan's foreign minister discussed the recent political-military developments in the country and the urgent need for finding a political solution to the issue. He expressed the Republic of Afghanistan's support for international efforts, particularly those that promote understanding and close contact between the Soviet Union and the United States, on achieving a political solution to the Afghan issue.

Both sides also discussed the 45th UN General Assembly session, including the draft resolution on political solutions to the Afghan issue and the international peace and security process and its effects on bilateral and international issues. Both sides agreed to exchange views on the aforementioned topics during the 45th UN General Assembly session.

Wakil Meets Indian Foreign Minister at UN

LD2909194590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Abdol Wakil has met with His Excellency Inder Kumar Gujral, minister of external affairs of the Republic of India, at the UN headquarters. At the meeting the two sides exchanged views on various aspects of relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of India, which are becoming more strengthened every day, and the process of political solution of the Afghan problem and the developments of the region and international issues.

Peshawar, Tehran-Based Rebels To Launch Attack

BK2909125790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 29 Sep 90 p 5

[Text] London, Sept 28—The Afghan leaders, Eng [engineer] Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, Mawlawi Muhammad Yunis Khalis, Prof. Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf and Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi are engaged in meeting for finalising strategy in connection with the fall of Kabul.

The Agency Afghan Press sources reported that Tehran based Afghan groups have decided to joint offensive on Kabul for which the headquarter of these groups was already shifted to Peshawar early this month.

The observers say that the participation of the Tehran based groups in the newly formed alliance will be effective for the fall of Kabul. The new alliance has appealed the citizens of Kabul to shift towards liberated areas.

The provincial administration of Afghan Interim Government in Konarha have started implementationson Islamic punishments. According to the reports a notorious dacoit [robber] Ajab Khan and his 17 companions were hanged to death. The dacoits were level charges to loot the passengers on the road connecting Konarha and Chitral during the winter last [sentence as published]. The reports said that the Mujahidins' administration has also banned carrying arms for the civilians. However, the personnels on duties will be exempted from the order.

Kabul Command Destroys Enemy Supply Convoys

LD2709165190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] The units and sub-units of Kabul's General Garrison Command carried out mopping-up and combat operations around Kabul today. The military section of

BAKHTAR reported that, in the course of these operations, five enemy supply convoys, consisting of 70 vehicles transporting weapons and ammunition for the extremists, were destroyed by the air force.

10 Killed, 30 Wounded in Kabul Rocket Attack

BK0110045190 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 1 Oct 90

[From "Radio Newsreel" Program]

[Text] Heavy rocket fire on the Afghan capital Kabul by antigovernment guerrillas has killed at least 10 people and wounded some 30 others. Damage to property was also extensive. Reporting from Kabul, Dipak Tripathi:

[Begin Tripathi recording] It has been one of the worst days for Kabul in recent memory. The mujahidin attack started around 2 o'clock on Sunday [30 September] afternoon, a day before the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad. About 10 rockets had slammed into the city in the first hour alone. They came mostly from the mount [Name indistinct] close to the city. Mujahidin guerrillas had been under military pressure in the northwest in recent weeks. So it is clear from the latest attack that many of them had made a tactical retreat from their two new hideouts in nearby mountain. And these attack are bound to increase concern among the residents of the capital. It came on the day the government announced further air raids on a mujahidin convoy moving toward the capital. A foreign ministry spokesman said 30 more trucks loaded with arms and ammunition have been destroyed south of Kabul in Lowgar Province. Afghan MIGs have been seen in action over the weekend. But military sources say Sunday's rockets seem to indicate that some supplies have got through to the rebels dug in near the Afghan capital. [end recording]

India

Former Deputy Premier Devi Lal Quits Parliament

BK3009071090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] The former deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, has resigned from the Lok Sabha. He announced his resignation within minutes of the beginning of the National Front parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi this morning. He told newsmen waiting outside the venue of the meeting that he had submitted his resignation letter to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh. The resignation letter is addressed to the Lok Sabha speaker. He, however, declined to elaborate. A senior Janata Dal leader and former law minister, Mr. A.K. Sen, who spoke at the meeting later told newsmen that he [Devi Lal] supports the provision of reservation for backward classes in principle. He, however, said that there is an urgent need to create job opportunities for the youth.

Later, Devi Lal released copies of his letter addressed to the Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, along with his resignation addressed to the Lok Sabha speaker at a news conference. He said he is not opposed to uplift of the backward communities, but protested that the decision on reservation was taken at the wrong moment without taking consensus of all concerned. Expressing his deep anguish over self-immolation and destruction of property, Mr. Devi Lal said he cannot support the government, which, he claimed, is insensitive to the issue which is leading the society to fragmentation.

[Senior Janata Dal leader] Mr. Chandra Shekhar, who jointly addressed the press conference, appealed to Mr. Devi Lal not to resign from the Lok Sabha so that the Janata Dal does not disintegrate. He said he is not attending today's National Front meeting.

Janata Dal Chief Comments

BK0110041490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] The Janata Dal president, Mr. Bommai, has termed the resignation of the senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Devi Lal, from the Lok Sabha as an unhappy development. Speaking to UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] in Bangalore last night, Mr. Bommai said that the government is safe and stable. He said the recent developments would in no way affect the credibility of the governemnt at the center.

Janata Dal Legislators Demand Singh Resign

BK3009073590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Twenty-one Janata Dal members of parliament are reported to have demanded the resignation of the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh. According to agency reports they have held Mr. Singh responsible for what they called the all-round failure of the government. Quoting a member of parliament, the reports say the decision was taken at an informal meeting held last night in New Delhi.

Official, Ministers Deny Crisis in Ruling Party

BK3009090490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] The National Front parliamentary party meeting has had detailed discussion on the general situation in the country and the situation arising out of the antireservation agitation. The meeting also discussed extension of president's rule in Punjab. The meeting called a day before the brief session of Parliament being held from tomorrow was still in progress when reports last came in. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue [of shrine claimed by both Muslim and Hindu communities] are also expected to figure at the meeting.

The secretary of the National Front parliamentary party, Mrs. Vijaya Chakroberty, who came out of the meeting for a short while told newsmen waiting outside that no one who spoke at the meeting has so far expressed any opposition to the implementation of the Mandal Commission report [on job reservations], nor demanded the resignation of the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh. The minister of state for water resources, Mr. Manobhai Kotadia said there was no crisis in the ruling front. The minister of state for food and civil supplies, Mr. Ram Poojan Patel, who also came out of the meeting, told newsmen that there was no question of Mr. V.P. Singh again seeking a vote of confidence from the National Front parliamentary party.

Party Reaffirms Confidence in Singh Leadership

BK3009131790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] The National Front parliamentary party has reaffirmed its full confidence in the leadership of the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and requested the government to adhere to its decision on the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations [reserving jobs for lower castes]. The unanimous resolution was adopted at the end of a nearly six-hour long meeting in New Delhi this afternoon. It was marked by a walkout by four members and the announcement of resignation from the Lok Sabha by the former deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal. He handed over his resignation letter to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and left the meeting soon after it began. Mr. Chandra Shekhar did not attend the meeting in which 133 members participated.

Briefing newsmen, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Upendra said the reaffirmation of confidence in Mr. V.P. Singh has become necessary in view of speculative newspaper reports. He said Mr Yashwant Sinh and two others opposed the adoption of any resolution saying they have not formally demanded the resignation of the prime minister and have not moved any no-confidence motion either. Several others, including Professor Dandavate, Mr. Upendra, and Mr. Jaipal Reddy, however, maintained that the party should set at rest all doubts circulated by interested parties regarding the leadership of Mr. V.P. Singh. They pressed the resoltuion, but Mr. Yashwant Sinha, Mr. Chand Ram and Mr. Jay Prakash left the meeting. Mr. Harmohan Dhawan also left after about 10 minutes.

The resolution moved by Mr. B.S. Hota condemned the stand taken by the Congress-I, particularly its leader, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, against the interest of the scheduled castes, tribes, and backward classes. It appeals to all sections of the people to abandon the path of violence and agitation and respond to the government's offer for talks. The meeting expressed profound sorrow over the loss of precious lives of children and youth in the agitation against and in favor of the government's decision. The members observed a two-minute silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the agitation.

The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, spoke to Mr. Devi Lal this evening and requested to him not to press his resignation from the Lok Sabha. He also talked to the Janata Dal president, Mr. Bommai, now in Bangalore, in this regard and asked him not to forward Mr. Devi Lal's resignation letter to the speaker of the Lok Sabha. Later, Mr. Devi Lal said he is firm in his decision, but will think over the matter if there is any change in the situation.

Violence Against Job Reservation Policy Continues

Premier Says Reservations Temporary

BK2809151690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that job reservations will not be a permanent feature and will be dispensed with once certain minimum norms of social and economic justice are achieved. In an interview to a newspaper, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh stressed that reservations are only an interim arrangement to counter discrimination in society. Mr. V.P. Singh said once everyone in society are made fairly equal, not necessarily exactly equal, there will be no need for reservations. About the implementations of the Mandal Commission's [on reservation of jobs for lower classes] report, the prime minister pointed out that the Janata Dal has repeatedly said over the past three years that once it comes to power, it will implement the report. Mr. Singh also recalled that the promise had been included in the election manifesto, the president's speech to Parliament and his assurances in several forums. He denied the allegation that there was a lack of prior notice before announcing the government's decision on the Mandal Commission's report.

Police Fire on Protesters

BK2809134790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Violence continued unabated in several parts of north India today in protest against the Mandal Commission [on reservation of jobs for lower classes] recommendations. In Himachal Pradesh, police opened fire in Champa town today, following large-scale rioting in which several vehicles and government buildings were set on fire. One person was killed in the firing and nine were seriously injured. The Army has been called out to help the civil authorties in maintaining law and order. In Madhya Pradesh, a youth with 65 percent burn injuries was admitted to the government hospital today at Gwalior.

Bundhs [strikes] were organized in at least six towns of Rajasthan. An agency report from Chandigarh says that a post-graduate student attempted to immolate himself today. He was admitted to hospital with 75 percent burn injuries.

The situation in the violence-hit areas of Delhi is reported to be tense but under control. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere so far. According to the police, several antisocial elements have been rounded up as a precautionary measures. Prohibitory orders have been extended to more areas of the city.

Our correspondent says that the public transport continues to be disrupted. The Southern Railway has informed the passengers of New Delhi bound trains that they are likely to reach Delhi considerably late.

Army Deploys in Haryana

BK2909095190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] According to the police, there are no reports of any untoward incidents from any part of Delhi. Intensive patrolling is, however, continuing as a precautionary measures, particularly in the areas hit by violence on Thursday. A spokesman of the Delhi Transport Corporation said bus services have been resumed in south Delhi and other areas where these were suspended earlier. According to the Delhi police, all entry points to the capital from the adjoining states are open.

In Haryana, the Army has been called out and curfew clamped in Hansi Town since last evening following incidents of violence and arson by the anti-Mandal Commission agitators. Earlier, two persons were killed when the police opened fire to disperse an unruly mob which set ablaze a number of government buildings and indulged in heavy stone throwing in which about 20 policemen were injured. In the Yamuna Nagar, a school girl sustained over 50 percent burn injuries in a self-immolation bid last night. She has been rushed to PGI Hospital in Chandigarh. Her condition is stated to be critical. In Chandigarh also, a school boy sustained about a 100 percent burn injuries in a self-immolation bid in the early hours of today.

In Punjab, the situation in all the curfew-bound towns are stated to be under control except in Samana where tension prevails.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has urged the prime minister to keep the implementation of the Mandal Commission report in abeyance till the decision of the Supreme Court. In a statement in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr. Krishna Lal Sharma, has also requested Mr. V.P. Singh to convene a round table conference of political parties, chief ministers, and experts in the socioeconomic fields to discuss various aspects of the report.

Consultations Continue

BK2909171890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Informal consultations were continuing in the capital at various levels to defuse the situation created by the anti-reservation agitation. The Janata Dal leaders have authorized their party president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, to hold a dialogue with the student leaders and others agitating against the implementation of the job reservations on the basis of the Mandal Commission recommendations. According to the spokesman of the Janata Dal, the party leadership is approaching the talks with an open mind and will have negotiations with all concerned without preconditions.

The communications minister, Mr. Janeshwar Mishra, today met a group of student leaders and discussed with them for two hours various aspects of the problem. Mr. Mishra later said the discussions were aimed at explaining the government stand and to dispel misgivings about [as heard] the students. He said the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere, though nothing substantial has emerged.

The situation in the areas affected by anti-reservation agitation in northern India by and large remained quiet today barring a few incidents. In the capital, no untoward incident has been reported so far. Police have intensified patrolling all over the city, particularly in sensitive areas. The DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] plied nearly 1,000 buses. About 500 private buses were also on the road. However, interstate services and services to the satellite towns of Faridabad, Ghaziabad, and Ballabgarh remained suspended. Entry points to the capital from the adjoining states are open.

In Punjab, the Army was alerted in the curfew-bound town of Samana in Patiala District this afternoon. One person was killed yesterday when the police opened fire to disperse a violent mob in the town. Curfew, which was clamped for a short duration in the Phagwara Town of Kapurthala District, has been lifted. The Army was also called out and curfew clamped on Hansi Town in Haryana following the killing of two persons in the police action yesterday. The incident occurred when the police had to open fire to disperse a mob which tried to set ablaze a number of government buildings and indulged in heavy stone throwing. Some incidents of self-immolation bids have been reported in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, while the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has shown improvement. Anti- reservationists tried to block road traffic in Lucknow. The proposed Vijay Yatra [victory march] in connection with the construction of the Sri Ram Temple at Ayodhya has been banned by the district administration.

In Baroda City, police fired six rounds to disperse a mob indulging in brickbatting this afternoon. According to agency reports, Naini railway godown [warehouse] in Allahabad was set on fire. In Himachal Pradesh, the situation in Mandi, Chamba, and Sundarnagar, where curfew was imposed, is under control but tense. The Army also staged flag marches in Palampur and Bilaspur. The curfew will again be relaxed tomorrow from 0500 to 1100 in Mandi Town.

Curfews Reinstated

BK0110100490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Reports of some suicide attempts have come in from Punjab, Chandigarh, and Jammu and Kashmir. Curfew has been reimposed in Jammu and Udhampur towns this morning following the immolation bids. The five-hour curfew relaxation in parts of Jammu and the 12-hour relaxation in Udhampur were withdrawn soon after the incident.

In Punjab, an indefinite curfew was clamped in Hoshiarpur this morning following incidents of violence due to one suicide attempt. The traffic in some parts of northwest Delhi was disrupted today following an attempt of self-immolation by a 27-year-old man, Pravin Jain. The condition of Pravin Jain, who was admitted to the Loknayak Jaiprakash Hospital with 50 percent burns, remains critical.

In Himachal Pradesh, curfew was relaxed in Mandi, Chamba, and Una towns for varying periods this morning. Day curfew was lifted at Sundarnagar. The Army remains deployed at eight places in the state, where the situation is said to be under control.

High Court Halts Implementation

BK0110115890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] The Surpeme Court today directed the government not to take further steps on the implementation of its 13th August order, reserving 27 percent of jobs for socially and educationally backward classes. The court reiterated that it will appropriately protect the interests of every backward class. It further said today's order is the clarification of its earlier order on the 21st of last month. The judges hoped that with this order, the law and order situation will immediately improve and called upon both the parties to take the appeal seriously.

Rajya Sabha Expresses Concern

BK0110125390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Members in the Rajya Sabha today expressed serious concern over the incidents of self-immolation by students and the situation arising out of the agitation against the implementation of the Mandal Commission report. Participating in a short-duration discussion on the issue, they appealed to the students not to resort to violence and take the extreme step of ending their lives. Members wanted the government to approach the students with an open mind to restore normalcy. During the debate, which was marked by allegations and counter-allegations of taking political advantage, members from all sections of the house were in favor of the implementation of the Mandal Commission report. They however were critical of the way and the circumstances in which the reservations for the socially and educationally backward classes were announced. The felt that the government should have consulted all political parties and arrived at a consensus on the issue.

Initiating the debate, Mr. S.B. Chavan, Congress-I, alleged that the government has failed to handle the situation in the wake of the student agitation. He said the prime minister took this decision to divert people's attention from government's failure to control the rising prices.

A Janata Dal member rebutted the charges that the decision to implement the Mandal Commission report was taken in haste. He recalled the National Front in its manifesto had clearly stated that if voted to power, it will implement the report.

Government Announces Plan To Create Jobs

BK2909140490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] The government has announced a specific plan of action to create 30 lakh [100,000] additional jobs for the educated unemployed in the private sector by 1994-95. Of these, 25 lakh are for undergraduates and the remainder for graduates. The Union Cabinet which discussed the problems of the youth at its meeting yesterday has also approved a new approach to boost job opportunities. The approach envisages a three-pronged strategy. It involves reformulation of economic policies to encourage use of labor, expansion of facilities for training youths in trades and professions, and the creation of self-employment avenues. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the government will be working on the plan and will also throw it open for national debates. He said a high-level committee is being appointed to draw up programs to implement the plan and the approach. He said this is only a starting point of a major attempt to make a dent on unemployment.

Gujral Addresses UN Assembly on Pakistan, Gulf

BK2909101190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] India will continue its efforts to build a wholesome relationship with Pakistan based on cordiality and friendship. Addressing the 45th UN General Assembly session in New York yesterday evening, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said the two countries can have a great future if they respect each other's integrity and unity. He criticized Islamabad's role in encouraging terrorist activities in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. He said all efforts by the Indian Government to persuade Pakistan to desist from these activities have been rejected by that country.

Referring to New Delhi's package of confidence-building measures, he regretted that Islamabad has ignored that too. The external affairs minister said that since India does not want to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan, he will not refer to the gross violations of human rights in Sindh and Balochistan. He said to cover up these inhuman acts, a duly elected government there has recently been dismissed.

Referring to bilateral relations with neighboring countries, Mr. Gujral expressed happiness that there has been a steady improvement. On China, he said both the countries have agreed to settle the boundary issue through peaceful and friendly consultations. Welcoming the return of democracy in Nepal, he said differences in our relations were happily and speedily resolved.

Referring to the latest Gulf crisis, Mr. Gujral said: We are against the use of force in the settlement of differences in interstate relations. We firmly oppose aggression by Iraq on Kuwait and want Kuwait's independence and sovereignty to be restored. He said India fully subscribes to and strictly abides by all the resolutions of the Security Council on the crisis.

About West Asia, Mr. Gujral said there can be no durable peace without a just and comprehensive settlement based on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Foreign Ministers Exchange Accusations at UN

BK2909044090 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 29 Sep 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] There's been a sharp exchange of words at the United Nations General Assembly between India and Pakistan. Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Mr. Yaqub Khan, accused the Indian authorities of gross human rights violations in Kashmir. In return, his Indian counterpart, Mr. Inder Gujral, said Pakistan has caused immense suffering by supporting militants in Kashmir and in Punjab. Our United Nations correspondent, Christopher (Ganis), heard the two speeches.

[Begin (Ganis) recording] In Pakistan's fiercest attack on India in the UN General Assembly since the Indo-Pakistani war of 1971, Yaqub Khan accused New Delhi of using massive force to suppress the struggle of the Kashmiris. Thousands of innocent people, including women and children, have been murdered, injured, and incarcerated. Homes have been burnt down, women have been molested, he said, and all major towns in the Kashmir valley have been placed under curfew. This caused particular surprise among diplomats here, because the speech comes only weeks after talks between the two sides foreign secretaries, who reportedly agreed on various confidence building measures. But Yaqub Khan pointedly accused India of spoiling tactics at that meeting. In response to this bitter attack, the Indian delegation rewrote their speech. In the final version, India's foreign minister, Inder Gujral, accused Islamabad of supporting both Sikh and Kashmiri secessionism. For more than eight years, he said, Pakistan has nursed and armed militants in the Indian state of Punjab, which has caused immense human suffering. Of late, he claimed, Pakistan has extended these practices to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in extensive misery and loss of innocent lives. Mr. Gujral said the two countries would enjoy better relations once Pakistan desists from interfering in the internal affairs of India. [end recording]

Reiterate Support for Gulf Efforts

BK2809140090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] India and Iran have reiterated their support to the UN efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis. This emerged at a meeting between the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, and the Iranian foreign minsiter, Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati, in New York today. Both the leaders discussed measures to further strengthen commercial relations between the two countries.

In another meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. James Baker, Mr. Gujral underlined the urgency to provide financial assistance to the developing countries affected by the Gulf problem on a graded basis taking into account the loss suffered by them.

Sikh Separatist Leader Killed in Punjab Gunfight

BK2809164190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1627 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 28 (AFP)—A Sikh separatist leader was among 16 people killed in continuing violence in India's Punjab state, where Sikh militants are fighting for an independent homeland, police said Friday. Security forces Friday shot dead Ranjit Singh, who headed the Khalistan National Army (KNA), in a gunbattle in the northern state's Gurdaspur District, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Mr. Ranjit Singh was killed when he and two other militants raided a state-owned bank and tried to escape with nearly 20,000 rupees (1,140 dollars), police were quoted as saying. The KNA is a recent addition to half a dozen Sikh groups battling for a separate homeland in Punjab. India accuses neighbouring Pakistan of backing the groups, a charge repeatedly denied by Islamabad.

Two people were killed and two others injured when a bomb exploded in a building in Punjab's Jalandhar District midday, PTI said. The blast was blamed on Sikh militants. Sikh separatists shot dead a Sikh preacher Friday and 12 others overnight Thursday elsewhere in the border state. Suspected rebels also stopped a bus in Ferozepur District and abducted five Hindus, PTI added. The killings brought to at least 1,881 the death toll in Punjab in violence linked to the campaign for a Sikh homeland called Khalistan (land of the pure) this year.

Forces Capture Kashmir 'Terrorists'

BK0110071790 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] In Kashmir, the security forces have achieved tangible success in apprehending terrorists in the last few days. A large number of arms and ammunition has also been seized. This has helped in controlling antinational activity in the Kashmir Valley as this report tells us.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Taking advantage of the difficult terrains, antinational elements cross the Line of

Control to get arms and training. However, due to stepped up surveillance and search and cordon operations, security forces have captured or killed about 1,850 subversives near the Line of Control and in the rear areas. Large caches of arms and ammunition have been seized from these subversives. These include AK-47 assault rifles, light machine guns, rocket launchers, hand grenades, ammunition and revolvers. The army has also captured large quantities of antipersonnel and antitank mines. Briefing newsmen, the corps commander, Lieutenant General Zaki, said that the army has succeeded in reducing infiltration to a considerable extent. He said that this has been made possible after identifying the infiltration routes. One of the captured terrorists said that he has been misguided and taken to Pakistan for arms training.

[Unidentified captive, in Urdu] I have completed a nearly 14 day military training course.

[Reporter] He appealed to misguided youths to give up the path of violence.

[Unidentified captive] I ask them to give up this path of violence and bloodshed and the (?clash) with the government and to cooperate with the government. [end recording]

Evacuation of Indians From Gulf To End 10 Oct

BK2809164990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Evacuation of all Indian nationals stranded in Iraq and Kuwait will be completed by the 10th of next month. This was stated by the chief coordinator of evacuation of the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. Ratan Sehgal, in Amman today. He told our special correspondent, Prabhakar Mishra, that representatives of the European Economic Community and International Organization for Migration have been approached by India to provide more aircraft for evacuating Indian nationals speedily.

Our correspondent from Amman says that at present, 2,700 Indians are being evacuated daily by Air India from Azraq camp near Amman. Mr. Sehgal, who returned to Amman last night after visiting al-Basrah and Kuwait, said that about 50,000 stranded Indians are to be evacuated from Kuwait. Of them, about 10,000 will be evacuated by ship and 40,000 airlifted after they reach Azraq camp by road. About 82,000 stranded Indian nationals have so far been evacuated from camps near Amman beginning from the 10th of last month. At present, about 14,000 Indian nationals are awaiting to be evacuated from Azraq camp. Three thousand Indians are reaching the camp daily for evacuation by air.

Meanwhile, evacuation of Indian nationals by Air Force planes from al-Basrah to Bombay will continue as scheduled till Tuesday in spite of the UN-imposed air embargo on Iraq. The Indian ambassador in Baghdad, Mr. Kamal Bakshi, has clarified that these mercy flights are not covered under the air embargo, because sick and injured people, pregnant women, and infants are being brought home by them.

The unloading of relief materials from the Indian ship, "Vishva Siddhi", at the Umm Qasr port of Iraq has begun. The material will be taken to distribution centers in Kuwait by trucks and distribution will start during the next three days.

Our Gulf correspondent, Avinash Goel, reports that substantial food stuff has been earmarked for distribution among the Indians in Iraq. Evacuation of Indians from Kuwait by passenger ships—the "Tippu Sultan" and "Akbar"—has also begun. "Tippu Sultan" is expected to reach Dubayy on Sunday with 700 people on board, while "Akbar" will arrive the next day with 1,800 Indians. Our ambassador in Baghdad has said that the evacuation of Indians from Kuwait to Jordan by buses is also going on smoothly.

New Evacuation Procedure for Nationals Created

BK2909172490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] The procedure for air journey for the stranded Indian nationals by Air India flight from the Azraq Camp of Amman in Jordan to Bombay has been simplified. Under the new procedure, issuing of air tickets by Air India has been done away with. The passengers will now have to get their passports stamped by the Indian Embassy officials. Our special correspondent Prabhakar Mishra reports that the new measures will help speedy evacuation of Indian nationals. There are about 11,000 Indian nationals stranded in the Azraq Camp waiting to be airlifted to Bombay. Our correspondent who visited the camp today says that although the Indians have lost everything while fleeing from Kuwait, the sympathy shown to them at the camp has instilled a sense of reassurance in their hearts. Besides Azraq Camp, hundreds of tents have also been put up in the desert area stretching about one and half km to shelter the stranded Indians mostly coming from Kuwait. They told our correspondent that there is no difficulty at the transit camp about food, shelter, and treatment of sick people. This has been made possible because of excellent coordination between the Jordanian authorities, officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, the Red Cross International, and the Red Crescent of Jordan.

About 2,500 Indians have set sail from the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr for Dubayy on board two passenger ships. "Tipu Sultan" with 710 people will touch the Dubayy Port tomorrow morning, while "MV Akbar" with about 1,800 on board is expected to reach Dubayy on Monday. Our Gulf correspondent Avinash Goel reports that Air India has made arrangements to carry these passengers to Bombay within 24 hours of their arrival in Dubayy.

Repatriation Operation Begins

BK3009081190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Sep90

[Text] The first Indian passenger vessel "Tipu Sultan" with over 700 evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq on board arrived at Dubayy's port (Rashid) this morning. With this, another air-sea operation to repatriate Indians trapped in Iraq and Kuwait has begun. Air India will be operating four A-320 airbus flights today from Dubayy to Bombay. Each flight will bring 165 passengers. More evacuees will be accommodated on a scheduled Air India Abu-Dhabi-Bombay flight. Tomorrow, another Indian vessel "MV Akbar" with about 1,800 passengers will dock at Dubayy port.

According to PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA], unloading of 10,000 tons of relief supplies from India for its nationals in Iraq and Kuwait brought in by "Vishwa Siddhi" has begun.

Iran

Further on Velayati Activities at UN

Discusses Government Stance

NC3009091290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] The Iranian delegation participating in the 45th session of the UN General Assembly has become the focus of international political and news circles, in view of the Islamic Republic of Iran's importance in regional and international developments. We had a telephone conversation with Mr. Velayati about the highlights of this session, and the activity of our country's participating delegation:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. Velayati, as the head of the Iranian delegation at the UN General Assembly's current session, would you please tell us about the significance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's participation in this session as compared to the past sessions?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the listeners. In view of the extremely momentous developments of the past few weeks in the most sensitive region of the Persian Gulf, and in view of international attention on Iran's key role in all kinds of fundamental solutions being considered for the future of the Persian Gulf, at this General Assembly session the Islamic Republic of Iran's participation has assumed an extraordinary and unprecedented importance.

All the countries in the world, both large and small, were waiting for Iran to clarify its stance. Therefore, we participated in an hitherto unsurpassed manner at the UN General Assembly session, and at a relatively high level. Everyone heard my speech presenting Iran's stance clearly and lucidly to the world. As in the past, our stance was within the framework of the principles we follow, that is, on the one hand, we condemned the occupation of Kuwait, the announcement of its annexation to Iraq, and the presence of foreign forces. On the other hand, we stressed the need to ensure the region's future stability, balance, and independence.

Of course, the Islamic Republic of Iran adheres to its principled stance and has always done so. The world is now aware of this. These were among the important characteristics which marked the UN General Assembly session this year, from Iran's point of view. [end recording]

In his talk with our correspondent, Mr. Velayati added: In light of our active participation in this session, most of the countries affirmed Iran's decisive stance on the various issues pertaining to the regional and international situation.

Our foreign minister stated: The special apprehension that characterized comments by representatives of other countries on our stance could be clearly sensed, but we clearly and firmly declared that we will uphold the UN Security Council resolutions and its sanctions imposed on Iraq.

The foreign minister clarified: Nearly all those who spoke to us were unanimous on the point that the Islamic Republic of Iran has a key role in the future of the region. In fact, in the light of the events, it is becoming more obvious daily that Iran has the most important, key role in the region and more attention should be paid to it in every plan for the future of the region.

The report from our special correspondent dispatched to the United Nations states: Mr. Velayati continued his meetings with the officials of other countries at the UN Headquarters yesterday and held individual meetings with the Bulgarian president and foreign minister, the Italian prime minister, and the Soviet and Hungarian foreign ministers, during which he discussed outstanding regional and international issues.

Meets With Shevardnadze

NC3009075090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Continuing his meetings with the officials of other countries at the UN Headquarters in New York, Mr. Velayati held separate meetings with the Bulgarian president and prime minister, the Italian prime minister, and the Soviet Union and Hungarian foreign ministers yesterday. They discussed regional and international issues.

The Bulgarian president told Mr. Velayati: We will gather all our resources for broadening ties with you, as we are fully aware of the important role of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In his meeting with our foreign minister, the Italian prime minister reiterated the EC's willingness for expanding ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Similarly, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and Mr. Velayati reviewed bilateral ties, the Persian Gulf situation, international issues, and the Afghanistan situation during their meeting. They expressed satisfaction with the trend toward expanding bilateral ties, and stressed the need for the Iraqi forces to withdraw from Kuwait. Regarding Afghanistan, the two sides stated that the future government of Afghanistan should be Islamic, independent, and nonaligned and should have cordial ties with all its neighbors.

The Hungarian foreign minister explained the recent developments in his country, in his meeting with our foreign minister, and hoped for greater broadening of mutual ties.

Further on Shevardnadze Meeting

LD3009104290 Tehran IRNA in English 0841 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 30, [IRNA]—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze met here Saturday and discussed Tehran-Moscow relations, the Persian Gulf crisis, Afghanistan issue and other international events. The two ministers are here to take part in the annual session of the U.N. General Assembly.

During the meeting, which was also attended by both countries' ambassadors to the United Nations, the two officials expressed satisfaction with the current trend of the Tehran-Moscow ties and expressed interest in their further development. As for the Persian Gulf crisis, both ministers stressed the need for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and underlined territorial integrity of Kuwait. They also emphasized that the Iraqi withdrawal is the only peaceful solution to the settlement to the crisis.

The Iranian minister said that presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf has aggravated tension and reiterated that Iran explicitly opposes such interference. Velayati added that security of the region must be safeguarded through collective cooperation of the Persian Gulf countries.

The Soviet foreign minister also expressed pleasure with peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq disputes. Of Afghanistan crisis the ministers stressed that the Islamic identity of Afghans must be respected.

On Saturday, Velayati met separately with Italy's Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti whose country currently chairs the 12-nation European Community (EC) and discussed bilateral ties, the Persian Gulf crisis, Iran-Iraq peace process and Iran-EC relations. Andreotti announced his country's and EC's readiness to expand relations with Tehran. Iran-EC relations were restrained 18 months ago after Tehran and London ties wer severed over Salman Rushdie affair. However, last Thursday both Iran and Britain announced normalization of ties.

On the Persian Gulf crisis, Velayati said that any change in the political geography of the region is unacceptable. On the same day, the Iranian foreign minister also met with his Hungarian counterpart and discussed issues of mutual interest including the ongoing developments in Hungary and East Europe. Velayati expressed hope that Budapest will pass through the transitional stage successfully. The two ministers also expressed satisfaction with the current trend in bilateral relations and called for their further consolidation.

Meets With Saudi Minister

LD3009215390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] The foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, Sa'ud al-Faysal, met with our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, on Sunday. According to a report of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, during this meeting Mr. Velayati, referring to Muslim opposition to the presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf region and particularly in the Islamic holy lands, said: The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that the countries of the region should cooperate with one another to ensure regional security and endeavor to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. Our country's foreign minister added: The nation of Iran believes in performing hajj rituals properly as a highly important religious and political duty, and we hope that existing obstacles will be removed from the path of hajj as soon as possible.

On the basis of this report, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia in this connection said: We also believe that the problems of the region should be solved through cooperation by the countries of the Persian Gulf region. He added: We are very eager to see the Muslim people of Iran travel to Saudi Arabia this year to perform their hajj rituals; our government will do its best to ensure that Iranian Muslims can perform their hajj rituals in the manner they desire.

Meets With Hurd

LD2809171290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati met with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at UN Headquarters this morning. They discussed the current crisis in the Persian Gulf and bilateral relations.

Reaffirming the position adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in terms of its opposition to the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region, Mr. Velayati said: The best means of guaranteeing security and stability in this sensitive region is through the establishment of regional communal security by the regional countries, and without the intervention of foreign forces.

The British foreign secretary for his part said: We also confirm that the security of the Persian Gulf cannot be achieved outside the region. In our view the countries in the region are capable of maintaining security.

Also at that meeting the two sides expressed the hope that relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain will continue and expand on the basis of mutual respect.

Envoy to UN Affirms Commitment to Embargo

LD2909211990 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's representative to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, has elaborated on Iran's stance toward the Persian Gulf crisis, refuting (?talk of) an export of Iraqi oil through Iranian territory. Speaking during an interview with an Italian publication, he said: No Iraqi oil had been transferred and exported through the Iranian territory so far.

On observing the embargo against Iraq by Iran, the Iranian representative to the United Nations said: Our commitment to UN resolutions is real; however, we must keep in mind our national interest in this regard.

Stressing the need to find a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis, he said: The American presence in the Persian Gulf had turned aggression against Kuwait into a secondary issue and created a gulf within the Islamic world, whereas, if UN (?forces) had intervened this would not have happened.

Commenting on the possibility of a permanent U.S. presence in the region, Mr. Kharrazi said: Such a step would not only be an obstacle in the way of the resumption of relations but also a great danger for the Americans and it (?will not be) tolerated. Elaborating on the possibility of establishing relations between Iran and the United States, he said: The United States must set aside its belligerent policies and stop interfering in the affairs of others; only in that case would we have no difficulty in having relations with them.

The Iranian representative to the UN said: America has a number of possibilities in this connection. For instance, it could release our frozen assets and return the arms spare parts already purchased.

In conclusion, Mr. Kharrazi stressed that arming Saudi Arabia by the United States would create problems for the entire region and that this was another mistake made by the Americans.

Emami-Kashani Leads 28 Sep Friday Prayers

Discusses Gulf, U.S., Experts

LD2809145190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1154 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Second sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani, member of the Council of Guardians, at Tehran University on 28 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verses in Arabic omitted] Today our ummah marched toward the sacred Friday prayer sites throughout the country symbolizing its unity and victory on the last day of the Holy Defense Week. This movement marks the fact that even though the Islamic Republic was held in an oppressed position for ten years with weapons aimed at this nation, pens writing against this nation, tongues speaking against the Islamic Republic, still that wrong and illegal current could continue its path no longer after ten years. The situation changed as promised by God, saying He will assist the right. [passage omitted]

Those movements gained invaluable results; the enemy became tired leaving the scenes. Pens and tongues admitted to their mistakes. That was a divine miracle, clouds went by and the morning light appeared at last. [passage omitted] That is a victory for us to march toward the Friday prayer sites. Why the Friday prayer sites? Why not toward some square? The secret is that everything originates God, from prayers, from spirituality, from the shinning heart, from pleading to God for forgiveness, from shedding tears for God's sake, from Friday prayers, from midnight prayers, from mosques, from martyrdom, from captivities, from self-sacrifices, which all are summed up in Tawhid. Prayers are the greatest signs of Tawhid. Therefore, we are rushing toward the Friday prayer sites. We thank and praise God for this victory, which no one expected. The Islamic Republic with its particular glory and greatness, now delivers its words even better with its head held high.

Our nation moved toward Friday prayer sites because their slogans against tyranny and tyrants also originate from Tawhid. The slogan against the U.S. military presence and those of other powers in the region is also derived from Tawhid, from spirituality; that is a divine slogan and not a material slogan. If the Islamic Republic clarifies its position saying the world Muslims do not tolerate the U.S. military presence and those of other powers in the Persian Gulf region and if it says the security of the region should be safeguarded by the countries of the region themselves and their governments, that also originates from the same Islamic justice and morality. All is derived from the same point. Therefore, [we have] the insistance on Friday prayers. If the Islamic Republic and our nation says we do not tolerate the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, as we do not tolerate the U.S. military presence, that also originates from the same justice-seeking attitude and from the same Islamic justice and system. That is why we moved toward the Friday prayer sites and presented ourselves there. With our presence we also deliver another point to the enemies, to the propaganda horns of the enemies of Islam, and that is the fact that the Iranian nation endured so much self-sacrifice on the basis of Tawhid, God, Islam, and spirituality and will maintain its presence even stronger than before. [crowd chants in support]

This means we are vigilant for supporting Islam and the Islamic Republic, and we are steadfast on the path of spirituality, God, and our religious duties. This is like a crushing and heavy club [which descends] on the head of the enemies of Islam. Greetings to our great and vigilant nation which, despite all the difficulties that came about as the result of the imposed war, it participates in these events with such enthusiasm, such presence, such strength, and such vigilance.

From here I wish to call to our Muslim brothers in Lebanon that if you also create this spirituality inside yourselves, you will not shed each other's blood. Shedding blood is unjust; it is a crime; it is a sin, and it is like adding grist to the mill of Islam's enemies. Wake up now and aim all your weapons at the usurping Israel, not toward the breasts of Muslim youths and toward one another. [chanting of slogans]

From here I also wish to make a point that is in connection with the same issue of spirituality and humanity; and it is only through this spirituality that the society can achieve its values. That point is the awakening of the young generation in the world; the awakening of the Muslims of the world, especially our young generations in Islamic countries. Whose duty is this? This is the duty of the mosques.

Here I wish to say this to the dear brothers who are the leaders of Islamic movements and Islamic uprisings throughout the world who have taken part in these Friday prayers: You will be successful only when you can awaken the younger generation to the truths of Islam and to the truths of the Koran. I hope God will bestow success upon you in achieving this.

Another point that is an important part of my discussion today is the issue of the Assembly of Experts. The Assembly of Experts's greatest duty is to choose the leader. The Assembly of Experts approved a resolution and empowered the jurist members of the Council of Guardians to implement that resolution. The importance of the Assembly of Experts manifested itself even more after the passing of our illustrious imam. At a time when the ship lost its captain, and the world had realized [as heard] the Islamic movement was on the way out, as the result of the move of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatolla Khamene'i, God's blessings be upon him [crowd chants, "God is great!"], movement continued in the same manner that was being advanced by the imam, thanks be to God. With his health and continued life and with God's assistance, this great movement will move forward with the same strength. [crowd chants slogans]

Meanwhile, global arrogance and the enemies of Islam, whether abroad or at home—a few who oppose the Islamic Republic at home here and there—learned beyond doubt that they should despair of adhering to their analysis that the survival of the Islamic Republic was dependent on that of the imam of the ummah. That fact underlines the importance of the Assembly of Experts. [passage omitted]

Our presence on the scene to participate in the election for the Assembly of Experts will demonstrate the greatness of Islam and the solid presence of the nation once again, God willing. The Assembly of Experts approved a decree that candidates and those who are elected must, from the point of view of scientific qualification, at least possess the minimum level of ijtihad (theological interpretation]. That is, they must at least be able to engage in ijtihad in several theological cases. They must also be known to be pious and just. The assembly agreed that the authority to decide on the candidates' qualifications lies with the jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians. That major task fell to them, and now I shall very briefly tell you, and the great Iranian nation, about the task which the honorable jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians must now perform. The law has a clause which states that if a candidate's theological qualifications have been confirmed, explicitly or implicitly, by the exalted leader [Khamene'i] then the jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians need not investigate that candidate's teholog-ical qualifications. However, they could investigate his qualifications in other respects.

A number of individuals were covered by that clause and therefore the jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians had no doubt about their theological qualifications. However, in the case of those not covered by that clause, it was done like this. We held numerous sessions and arrived at the conclusion that if someone is reputed among the ulema in the seminary or in the town where he lives to be learned in theology, then we will confirm him as qualified on account of his reputation. His reputation must be such that he can engage in ijtihad, at least in some cases. There are also those who are not reputed to be qualified, but if we ourselves conclude through our research that they are theologically qualified, then we can confirm them as candidates. We have done so. [passage omitted]

However, there were some gentlemen who were neither covered by the clause nor enjoyed a reputation for their theological knowledge among the ulema. Nor could we decide. So we invited the gentlemen to sit for an examination, because it was our religious and legal duty to so. We must discern theological qualifications, before we can confirm them. We brought matters to a conclusion through the assistance we received from the ulema of Qom seminary. Of course, some of the gentelemen did not come to sit for examination. Some of them are valuable, credible, and pious persons but they held the view that they did not need to sit for examinations. We did not dispute the validity of their own estimation. But we told them that it is not our fault; it is we who have to evaluate. Even though their own personal evaluation is to be respected we have no other alternative but to implement the law. [passage omitted]

Some of the gentlemen did sit the examinations. But then some of those who did so failed to attain the pass mark. They failed maybe because they had some difficulties. They might have come from far away; they might have been tired. But in any case our criterion was their exam papers. [passage omitted]

This examination was carried out with particular care and the jurists of the Council of Guardians did so without any favoritism. They relied upon all of the real and basic principles.

If sometimes certain individuals testified to the expertise in Islamic law of an honorable and gracious person, the difficulty was that this witness was in contradiction to the witness of another person. [passage omitted] What are we to do when the witnesses are contradictory? This happened to us. When we looked [at someone's credentials] one person said no and the other said yes. The secret that the Assembly of Experts gave this work to the jurists of the Council of Guardians was so this was carried out under a fundamental and legal system, with a particular order. It was due to these differences of opinion that the matter was handed to the jurists of the Council of Guardians. [passage omitted]

The work of the Council of Guardians is obvious to the great people of Iran but their role will be clearer during this issue. They will see those who are so close to the jurists of the Council of Guardians are men who are worthy, devoted, self-sacrificing, they who have suffered during the revolution and after the revolution, whose children have been martyred, who are members of the teaching staff of the Qom religious seminary; but they did not participate in the examination. In last night's session, when we saw that they had not participated [in the exam], then we did not approve [them]. [passage omitted] This is the law. If a lady who is learned, perfect, who has had five children all of whom were martyred; if that lady becomes a presidential candidate we cannot accept her; we cannot approve this; we say that according to our law a candidate must be a man. [passage omitted]

There was no personal favoritism. The same yardsticks were used [for all]. Their cases were studied, sometimes some people were invited to take the tests, I mean we invited them, they came and talked. We interviewed them; two of the jurists interviewed them, and they [the jurists] would come to the session and say they [the candidates] were such and such and that in their view there was no need for tests; that we should not trouble them and force them to come and take part in the test. If other friends also approved this view, and if the majority voted, they would say there was no need for a certain individual to take part in the test. This was a very exact method used by us. During the tests no time limits were given. For instance, if they were given the exam papers at 1000 in the morning, if they still wished to write the answers until 1500 they could do so. Often it happened that they came at 1000 and they were still busy writing until 1900. We did not exert any pressure. Books were also placed at their disposal, and they were told here are the books, the references, and other things. In other words, there was complete assistance and complete leniency.

However, once more I should repeat this does not mean those gentlemen's expertise in religious issues is denied. We did not get any results; they could really be [experts], but they might have been suffering from fear and anxiety there and could not write properly. At the same time, I would also say we do not claim to be infallible. There is possibility of mistakes, but we exerted our efforts to the limit of our religious and legal duties. We made every effort to perform what we regarded to be our duty.

I hope all these honorable and dear gentlemen will encourage the people to have an extensive presence in the [elections of] Assembly of Experts. With their reputation, with their greatness, and with their status they should invite the people [to take part in the elections]. Our nation which, thanks be to God, is vigilant, pious, and aware of the sensitive junctures of the revolution—and the elections of the Assembly of Experts is one of the sensitive junctures of the revolution—this nation should be urged to take part. God forbid, they should never say why this was so, or utter a word in a mosque, in a gathering or a place which might weaken the people's morale; because all those gentlemen are worthy and are respected by us. However, we had to perform our religious and legal duty. [passage omitted]

Delivers Arabic Sermon

NC2809153490 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1120 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Arabic Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Emami-Kashani in Tehran on 28 September—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Peace be upon the Muslim brothers and sisters throughout the world. On this day, Friday, the Muslims come for the Friday prayers, which are held in high esteem. Day or night, Friday is meant to be spent in self-discipline and prayers to God, the compassionate, the merciful. It is a time for a return to the self and for moments of repentance.

Today, we see the Iranian people taking part in the overwhelming march that signifies unity in their close ranks. They are the same people that emerged victorious from the fighting after eight years of holy defense in an imposed war. This war showed the injustice against the Islamic Republic and proved that it was right, particularly after the veil had been dropped and the black cloud cleared. This war showed the Islamic Republic's greatness and moral significance in the world.

The sons of the Iranian people praise God almighty for allowing them to take part in a great march today toward the seats of the Friday prayers, where God's light is revealed, to celebrate these blessed days in which right overcame falsehood. With their tight fists and strong cheers, they declare their Islamic and humane position against the presence of the U.S. military troops in the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the region's security must be ensured without the presence of foreign troops.

Dear Muslims throughout the world: All this glory and victory for the Iranian Republic was gained only through sacrifice and martyrdom by the Muslim Iranian people. For truly God almighty does not depart from a promise.

It is the promise of God. Never does God depart from His promise, but most men understand not. [Koranic verse] Therefore, we must not [word indistinct] from God's promise and believe in its fulfillment, because only with such a degree of faith can victory be attained.

O Muslims everywhere: Let us unite, combine our forces and opinions, renounce differences, give up personal fancies and egoism, and resort to the great Islam, which is considered the base of safety and security and the source of dignity and honor.

O Friday imams throughout the Islamic world: Remind people in your Friday sermons of the facts about the blessed Koran, which was revealed to show the dignity of mankind and the greatness of Islam.

O dear Muslims in Lebanon: Is not the division and fragmentation among your ranks, bloodshed, and bloody fighting harmful to Islam and the Koran? Does not it harm your present life and afterlife? How long will you slumber? By God, such fighting is a disgrace to all Muslims. Belief in God and fear of Him will guide mankind toward the straight path.

O dignified leaders of the Islamic movements: We bless your arrival in Iran. You are now in Islamic Iran. Your meeting here is highly significant. Therefore, side by side, we must try to awaken the young Muslim generations throughout the world. If we succeed, we will have performed our duty. May God almighty guide you in accomplishing this great mission.

In conclusion, we ask God almighty to bestow upon us piety, self-discipline, and renunciation of sins. He is truly near and ready to answer. May peace and God's mercy be upon you. He is God, the One and Only, God, the Eternal, Absolute. He begetteth not, nor is He begotten. And there is none like unto Him. [Koranic verse]

Marchers Demand Iraq's Withdrawal From Kuwait

LD2809121590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Our correspondent reports that, at the end of the glorious Unity and Victory Marches, the marchers gathered at the location where the Tehran Friday Prayers are held. Here the resolution of the demonstration, which contains nine articles, was read and approved by the people who were present. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report on this matter:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Part of this resolution stresses the complete implementation of all the orders and sayings of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be admitted to God's paradise. Pointing to the fact that the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] is the unalterable principle of the Islamic world revolution and the sole guarantor of the future of the Islamic system, the marchers in these ceremonies once again confirmed their allegiance to the vali-e faqih [the supreme jurisconsult—Khamene'i] of our time and announced their readiness to carry out the orders of that combative Faqih.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was also condemned in this resolution, and the marchers demanded the unconditional withdrawal of the invading Iraqi forces from all Kuwaiti territories.

In another part of the resolution, the invasion by foreign forces, especially those of the U.S., of the Persian Gulf region and the holy shrines was condemned and the Islamic ummah asked not to allow the presence of alien forces in the Islamic lands, by the formation of a single Islamic ummah.

All the Muslims of the region are asked to strengthen the united front against world blasphemy by taking the fate of the Islamic world into their own hands and starting the liberating Jihad against the invaders.

In conclusion, the resolution thanks the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the implementation of economic and political plans. The marchers calls on the government to pay greater attention to the plight of the poor and oppressed strata of society to reduce the economic burden upon them, and further demonstrate their appreciation of the proud fighters. [end recording]

National Security Council Discusses Gulf

LD2909164190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council convened a session, chaired by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, this evening. In that session, at which the high-ranking military commanders and political advisers were present, in view of the growing concern over the possibility of a military conflict in the region, and its dangerous consequences and scale, the latest reports and means of preventing such a conflict were debated. Also in that session, in view of the halt in the exchange of POW's and the Iraqi allegation that it has repatriated all the Iranian POW's, the technical committee was instructed to pursue constant negotiations with the Iraqi side to resolve that issue.

Karrubi Terms U.S. Buildup 'Serious Threat'

LD2909105290 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi Friday termed the increasing U.S. military build-up in the Persian Gulf region "A serious threat on regional Muslim states and people." He made the remark in a meeting with Sheikh 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, leader of Jordan's Ikhawan-al-Moslemin (Muslim Brotherhood), who visited Karrubi at a Tehran Hospital yesterday.

The Majlis speaker is hospitalized at 'Khatam-ul-Anbia' hospital for slipped disk. "The objective of the U.S. military presence in the region is plundering Muslims' wealth, especially their oil, and promulgate the ominous western culture," stressed Karrubi.

He warned the world Muslims of threats posed by presence of the foreign forces in the region and added that the move aims at further consolidating influence of the Zionists in this part of the world. He urged the regional Muslim states and nations to confront foreign forces. "This is possible only through revolutionary and genuine Islam and not the Islam of American version."

Meanwhile, Sheikh Khalifah who was accompanied by a delegation of heads of Islamic movements and Muslim brotherhood from a number of Muslim countries, underlined unity of the Islamic community and condemned U.S. military presence in the region.

Mohtashemi Urges Attacks on Foreign Ships in Gulf

NC2909101890 Paris AFP in English !010 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept 29 (AFP)—The leader of Iran's anti-Western hardliners, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, called Saturday for attacks on foreign ships in the Gulf and on the palaces of the ruling royal families in the region. "With the first shot fired by U.S. soldiers, the region will be transformed into a violent volcano that will engulf the oilfields," Mr. Mohtashemi said in his monthly publication Bayan.

"Now we must take advantage of the dismay and hatred felt by the Muslim community for the American and Western presence in the Persian Gulf to draw up a serious plan for violent confrontation," he said.

The MP and former interior minister called on "forces of the Muslim community to make a direct attack on foreign ships and on the palaces of kings and shaykhs of countries in the region." Opposition to the Western presence in the Gulf is a duty for the followers of Iran's late spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, he said, accusing Washington of trying to seize Msulim oil assets.

Washington has deployed more than 140,000 troops to dissuade Iraq from attacking Gulf states after its August 2 invasion of Kuwait and to enforce sanctions ordered against Baghdad by the U.N. Security Council. Tens of thousands of Iranians demonstrated here Friday to protest against Iraq's invasion and the U.S.-led military build-up in the Gulf.

Kuwaiti Minister Terms Talks 'Constructive'

LD2909165690 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 29, IRNA—Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah left for Dubai Saturday at the end of his three-day visit. The Kuwaiti official was here with a message for President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani from Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah who is in exile in Saudi Arabia following Iraq's August 2 seizure of the tiny oil-rich Persian Gulf state.

Speaking to reporters at the airport before his departure, Nasir Al-Sabah termed his talks with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati "constructive", and thanked the Islamic Republic for its "clear and resolute position" concerning the U.N. Security Council resolutions on the current crisis. Al-Sabah whose country bankrolled the Iraqi invasion of the Islamic Republic for eight long years, insisted that all resolutions passed by the U.N. Security Council should be implemented.

Besharati who saw off Al-Sabah said he outlined the principled stances of the Islamic Republic in his talks with the Kuwaiti visitor. Iran was the first country to condemn the occupation of Kuwait, and to call for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from that Persian Gulf state, he noted.

"We also made it clear that presence of foreign forces in the region electrifies tension instead of restoring security and tranquility," said the Iranian official demanding "swift withdrawal of all outside forces from the Persian Gulf."

He stressed that regional countries should get together to form a politico-military structure of their own, and said such a set-up would also guarantee security of oil fields besides regional stability. "Foreign forces" pointed out Besharati "only think of their own interests."

Diplomatic Relations Restored With Mauritania

LD2909114590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations has announced that Mauritania and the Islamic Republic of Iran decided yesterday to reestablish diplomatic relations, broken in 1987. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced in a statement that the normalization of relations between the two countries will begin 5 October.

The decision to reestablish diplomatic relations between the two countries was taken following a meeting of the two countries' foreign ministers, who are at present attending the UN General Assembly. Furthermore it was announced last night in The Hague that the Dutch foreign minister and the foreign minister of our country have held discussions on expanding diplomatic relations on the fringes of the work of the UN General Assembly in New York.

According to AFP, after this meeting the Dutch foreign minister said: The expansion of diplomatic relations between the two countries will be discussed before the end of the year. This issue will specifically be raised at the next meeting of the two countries' officials at The

Hague, during the visit of the Iranian deputy foreign minister in charge of European affairs.

Editorial Optimistic on Gulf Resolution

LD2909113790 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—A morning daily Saturday expressed optimism over "a happy ending to the Iraq-U.S. stand off" but added "there is also a complete lack of ideas afloat that might allow the two sides to disengage". The English-language KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL wrote that although no government has unequivocally supported "Saddam's invasion of Kuwait", there exists significant support among many Arab nations.

"It should be obvious that Saddam will not bow to the threat of superior U.S. arms without what will be a very bloody conflict, whose time limit cannot be predicted," wrote the editorial. Pointing to the fact that one-third of oil being traded on the market is from Saudi Arabia, the article noted that if hostilities commence, those fields will be targetted and if the fields are not crippled, the workforce will flee.

"Those with eyes to see will quickly realize that if hostilities erupt, Iran could well be host to 2-4 million more refugees," the daily noted. In that case, the paper added, borders of Kuwait with Saudi Arabia and the Iraqi borders with Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia will all be potential or actual war theaters.

Therefore, the Iraqis and Kuwaits will certainly rush towards Iranian border and have to be channelled through crossings at Shalamcheh and Qasr-e-Shirin, it said. Other border areas are impassable for civilians because of trenches, barbed wire emplacements, canals and mine fields left behind from the Iran-Iraq war, noted the paper.

"Now it is time to rapidly mobilize logistics needs and resources to prepare for a possible massive exodus...contingency planning is an urgent necessity to relieve what could be a human tragedy of immense proportions at the Iran-Iraq border," concluded the daily.

Commentary Views Velayati-GCC Ministers Meeting

LD3009145190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear listeners. The foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries yesterday met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati at the Iranian office at the UN headquarters in New York. In that meeting—in which the foreign ministers of Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates; the UN ambassadors of those six countries; and PGCC [abbreviation as heard] Secretary General Abdullah Beshara participated—recent developments in the Persian Gulf region and regional cooperation for restoring security and stability were reviewed and discussed.

The significance of the meeting is the fact that the majority of Persian Gulf countries had adopted an unfriendly—and in some cases hostile—policy against the Islamic Republic of Iran in past years, and increased their dependence on the West. But since the eruption of the Kuwait crisis, and witnessing the weakness and incapability of the international system to resolve the crisis, the southern littoral Persian Gulf states are trying to become closer to the Islamic Republic of Iran—the biggest and most influential country in the region—in order to enjoy this country's support in resolving regional problems.

From the outset of the Persian Gulf crisis, the Arab countries of the Cooperation Council—by inviting Western, Arab, and Islamic forces—tried to solve the Kuwait crisis by resorting to threats and military moves. But now, nearly two months after the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the southern littoral Persian Gulf countries and the Western countries have realized the region's sensitivity dictates that they seek more logical solutions, and try as much as possible to solve the problem by peaceful means.

The Cooperation Council foreign ministers, in their meeting with Velayati, stressed the important role of the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for expansion of the mutual and friendly atmosphere between the southern littoral Persian Gulf countries and Iran. Velayati, elaborating in the meeting on the Islamic Republic of Iran's fundamental position vis-a-vis the crisis, reiterated the necessity that the Persian Gulf countries maintain the region's security themselves without the presence of alien forces. He expressed the hope that similar meetings will take place in the future to continue such discussions and find an appropriate solution to the Kuwait crisis.

It is certain that the alien countries' policies have never been in line with the interests of the Muslim peoples of the region, and never will be; and regarding those conditions, the countries of the region—having in mind their own interests—can through mutual cooperation play the necessary role for a just solution to the crisis without any tragic event having to taking place. That is what the Islamic Republic of Iran's fundamental policy is based on, and what will be pursued in its foreign policy.

*Iraqi Cargo Planes Spotted in Mehrabad Airport

90AS0462A London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] According to a reliable report from Tehran, last Thursday five Iraqi cargo planes landed at Mehrabad Airport and flew to Baghdad after taking on cargo.

An eye witness told London KEYHAN that these aircraft were seen loading cargo at Mehrabad airport, but he did not know what goods were loaded onto the Iraqi aircraft.

The presence of Iraqi cargo planes at Mehrabad Airport to carry goods and substances needed by Iraq was disclosed at a time when the Islamic Republic has emphasized its support of the UN Security Council resolution on an economic embargo of Iraq, and it ought not to violate the UN Security Council resolution by sending goods to Iraq.

*Some Returning Prisoners Taken to Evin Prison

90AS0462C London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Prisoners who expressed opposition to the regime during their imprisonment have an uncertain fate.

According to a reliable report from Tehran, many of the prisoners released in recent weeks and returned to the country, will be transferred from quarantine to Evin prison instead of being sent back to their families. This includes prisoners who said bad things about the Islamic Republic regime during their imprisonment in Iraq and also a number of those who spoke against the regime on Baghdad radio.

The same report said that during the quarantine all the prisoners were interrogated to determine which of them expressed opposition to the Islamic Republic regime during their imprisonment.

This report states that the families of prisoners who were transferred from the quarantine to prison are not being told of the imprisonment of their prisoner family members unless the prisoner himself tells the family by some means.

One released prisoner, who gave the details of these events to the author of this report, said that some prisoners were separated from the others during the quarantine and taken to an unknown destination. Among these prisoners was a person named 'Ali Farzaneh the son of 'Abbas, whose fate is unknown.

This prisoner said that among the prisoners were many with tuberculosis, who were kept in quarantine for only 48 hours and then released.

*Iraq Returns 'Hijacked' Passenger Airbus

90AS0462B London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] An Iranian passenger airbus hijacked in the year 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] and taken to Iraq was returned to Iran Saturday this week, 24 Shahrivar—15 September.

This aircraft was hijacked in 1363 during a flight from Shiraz to Tehran. Its hijackers initially landed in Kuwait and then took the aircraft to Iraq.

In subsequent years, the Iraqis repeatedly rejected requests to return the aircraft, calling it a spoil of war. This aircraft is the second one the Iraqis have returned to Iran after the recent changes. It is expected that the third hijacked Iranian aircraft will also be returned soon.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

King Pledges New Constitution by Oct 17

BK2909092090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 29 (AFP)—Nepal will have a new constitution in less than three weeks, King Birendra pledged Saturday. "The draft of the constitution is under serious consideration of the Council of Ministers, and we shall endeavour to bring the new constitution into force within 17 October," the king said in a national message on the occasion of the Hindu festival marking the victory of truth over evil.

In his message quoted by state radio, King Birendra repeated his commitment to multi-party democracy under Nepal's constitutional monarchy. "To advance further toward the democratic norms of a government formed by representatives elected by the people, it is its responsibility to hold general elections on time," the message said.

"Nepal is entering a new era in its long history. It is natural for all Nepalese to look forward to a bright future in the changes which have brought about a new democracy.

"In a democracy we should... Consider all issues openly and engage in dialogue so as to arrive at conclusions which are mutually satisfactory and commonly acceptable," he said in a remark observers saw as a call for dialogue on the role of the monarchy in the new constitution. [sentence as received]

Other issues include the king's emergency powers and the transfer of sovereignty from the king to the people. The 11-member interim government headed by Prime Minister K.P. Bhattarai early this week reached a consensus on limiting the king's power, setting up a two-chamber parliament, transferring the king's sovereignty to the people and placing the army under the control of a civilian body headed by an elected prime minister.

The Council of Ministers is expected to deliver the draft constitution to the king in the next two weeks pending some final technical corrections, a highly placed Council of Ministers source said.

Bhutan

Outside Investigation of Reported Killings Urged

BK2809135190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 28 (AFP)—A Nepal-based human rights group Friday accused Bhutanese soldiers of killing 319 people and injuring 476 in clashes with dissident Bhutanese groups between September 20 and 22. Bhutan Aid Group-Nepal (BAG-N) issued a press statement here in which it also named eight people whose bodies, it said, had been found in southern Bhutan along the border with India on September 21. It did not say who killed them.

The Bhutanese Embassy in New Delhi confirmed clashes between dissident groups and Bhutanese troops but said only a few casualties were inflicted on both sides. BAG-N said at least 40 people were killed at Fongcholing, 20 in Samchi, 15 in Chengmari, 46 in Sibsu, 196 in Samrang and one each at the Golefu and Longkhar localities of Bhutan.

BAG-N spokesman Chetendra Jung Himali said here that several others had also been killed in southern and southeastern Bhutan. Mr. Himali said he strongly deplored the killing of unarmed Bhutanese people who were agitating for political and human rights.

Bhutan's ruler, King Jigme Singye Wangchuk, should not forget that people were "the power of any state" and the ruler's duty was to protect the people, not kill them, he said. Mr. Himali said the international human rights group Amnesty International should investigate the Bhutanese Government's suppression of the protestors, adding: "Human rights will succeed in the long run." The pro-democratic Nepal Students Union issued a separate statement expressing sympathy and support for the Bhutanese people.

Embassy in New Delhi Denies Protesters Killed

BK2809161190 Hong Kong AFP in English
1534 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 28 (AFP)—The Royal Bhutanese Embassy here Friday issued a formal statement denying reports that its security forces killed protestors in clashes in southern Bhutan last week. News agencies earlier this week quoted Bhutanese dissidents in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu as saying hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators were massacred and 2,000 arrested between September 19 and 25.

A Nepal-based human rights group repeated the allegations earlier Friday in Kathmandu, accusing Bhutanese soldiers of killing 319 people and injuring 476 in clashes with dissident Bhutanese groups last week. "There were disturbances in parts of southern Bhutan," the embassy statement said, but added that the only casualties were on the government side.

It said four Bhutanese policemen were kidnapped from Gomtu in Bhutan's Pugli District between September 19 and 23. One was beheaded and the kidnappers slashed off the fingers of another, now under treatment in an Indian hospital. A third, who was stabbed, is in critical condition in a hospital in the Bhutanese capital of Thimphu, the statement said.

In a second incident in Samchi, 100 armed "anti-nationals" in camouflage uniforms entered Samchi District, and when confronted by a district officer who asked them to go back, they tossed a home- made grenade at him, injuring a police superintendent and a police constable, it added.

The detailed statement listed three other incidents in Kalikhol, Sibsoo and Sarbang, all of which involved firing on army and police vehicles. "What the spokesman of the Bhutan People's Party and the Bhutan support group of Nepal have conveniently omitted to inform the press is that the anti-nationals have also engaged in looting shops and attacking innocent civilians," it said.

The statement accused the groups, who claim discrimination by the Bhutanese Government against Bhutanese of Nepali descent, of "planting stories" to discredit the Government of Bhutan. Several hundred Bhutanese of Nepali descent have left Bhutan for India and Nepal, claiming persecution by the government, according to Indian Government figures. The dissidents put the number at thousands.

Sources in India's Foreign Ministry here have also said they believe the massacre reports are exaggerated. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES newspaper said Friday: "There is apparently considerable embarrassment in New Delhi over the escalating scale of the (anti-Bhutanese) campaign." Many Bhutanese dissidents of Nepali descent operate on Nepalese and Indian soil, and reports from the Indian state of West Bengal, which borders Bhutan, have indicated that they have sought the assistance of Ghurka Liberation Front fighters.

Government Invites International Groups to South

BK3009053590 Hong Kong AFP in English
0423 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 29 (AFP)—The government of the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan has invited international organizations to the country's south to investigate allegations of mass arrests and killings there, the kingdom's embassy here said. "The royal government has requested various representatives of international organizations in (the capital of) Thimpu to go to southern Bhutan to ascertain the true facts of the situation," Bhutan's Embassy said in a statement Saturday.

The statement did not name the organizations, but most foreign organizations based in Thimpu are connected with the United Nations. Several groups of Bhutanese of Nepalese descent have in the past year charged discrimination by the Bhutanese Government and in the past month have alleged hundreds of killings by the government and up to 1,500 arrests.

The government has through its embassy in New Delhi denied the reports and Saturday it accused foreign news agencies who had carried statements by the Bhutan People's Party of mouthing propaganda. The Bhutan People's Party is one of several groups representing Bhutanese of Nepalese descent, who constitute some 30 percent of the population of approximately 800,000.

Saturday's embassy statement for the first time however said that the government had arrested 452 people in the country's south between September 20-23, but that King Jigme Singje Wangchuk had personally granted amnesty to all but 36 during a trip there between September 24 and 29. The 36 still under arrest, it said, "were responsible for criminal acts of extortion, dacoity (robbery) and kidnapping of Bhutanese nationals during the past months."

It said 18 of them had been dressed in camouflage uniforms and carried weapons. In Kathmandu meanwhile, a Bhutan People's Party spokesman said in a telephone interview that at least 71 people, including three Bhutanese officials, had been arrested in the three days up to Friday.

The spokesman claimed at least 319 people were reportedly killed in Army shootings but added that only two deaths had been officially confirmed in a rash of protests September 20-22 which took place in different localities, including Shanti, Fungcholing, Samchi, Chengmari, Sibru and Samrang. The spokesman alleged that Bhutan's King Jigme had stripped 1,700 Nepalese origin dissidents of their Bhutanese citizenship.

The Bhutan Embassy statement in New Delhi meanwhile acknowledged that two Bhutanese officials, identified as Palden Lepcha and B.P. Sharma, "were among the 452 initially detained but were released under the special amnesty and pardon by his majesty the king."

The statement denied as "totally untrue" allegations that the third official, indentified as Harka Bahadur Gurung, had been arrested. "It was his office which was attacked and ransacked during the demonstration by the mob who deliberately destroyed all the census and emigration records and other important documents" of the Gaylephug region, the statement said.

Pakistan

Spokesman Denies Gulf Security Pact With U.S.

BK3009155590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has denied reports that Pakistan is sending 100,000 troops to Saudi Arabia. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said in fact Pakistan is sending a limited number of troops totalling 5,000, half of which have already reached Saudi Arabia. He described as incorrect the impression that Pakistan is a party to any plans for a security pact or alliance with the United States in the Gulf. He however clarified that if the tense Gulf situation is defused, the ways and means to maintain the security and stability of the region can be examined. This is the duty of the Islamic countries of the region to defend themselves. The spokesman added that during his recent visit to the three member-states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi had expressed Pakistan's solidarity with these countries in the event of any threat to them.

Yaqub Khan Addresses UN Assembly on Kashmir

BK2909090390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Pakistan has called upon the international community to back the Kashmiri people's struggle for their right to self-determination and to end their trial and agony. Addressing the UN General Assembly today, the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan reiterated Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful settlement of the dispute through negotiations on the basis of UN resolution. Raising a question how long are the Kashmiris to be denied their inalienable right to self-determination, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said over 1,600 people have died in occupied Kashmir since January this year as nearly 300,000 Indian troops are attempting to crush the uprising. Thousands more have been injured and incarcerated, their houses burnt down, and women molested. The brutality of Indian security frces has already been widely condmned by human rights organizations. He told the world body in unequivocal terms that the popular unrest in occupied Kashmir is entirely indigenous in character. He rejected Indian allegations of Pakistani interference in the held territory. In this connection, he referred to Pakistan's proposal for establishment of a neutral mechanism to monitor such accusations and pointed out that India had rejected the offer. The foreign minister called for a constructive dialogue with India in the spirit of the Simla agreement to defuse tension and to seek a peaceful solution. Referring to the recent two rounds of Foreign Secretary-level talks, he said the Indian side evaded any discussion on the Kashmir dispute and redeployment of forces to peace time location.

Turning toward Afghanistan, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Pakistan had an abiding interest in the restoration of a peaceful, sovereign, nonaligned, and Islamic Afghanistan. He said Pakistan has consistently encouraged Afghan efforts to develop a political consensus for an internal settlement. He regretted that Kabul regime has consistently been denying the Afghan people their right to form a government of their choice. He also called on the world community to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees until their return voluntarily to their homeland.

On the Gulf crisis, the foreign minister called for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal and restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait. Pakistan has supported the UN action against Iraq and would cooperate in implementing the Security Council resolution.

On Middle East, he emphasized the need for urgent efforts to promote a settlement and [words indistinct] Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and Palestinians right to status.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan also touched upon nuclear nonproliferation, conventional disarmament, debt problem, and other major world issues and enunciated Pakistan's positive and principled approach toward them.

Envoy Rejects Indian Charges on Kashmir, Punjab

BK2909162390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Indian allegations, describing them as baseless and wrong, which accuse Pakistan of interfering in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and in the Indian state of Punjab. Speaking at the UN General Assemly last night, the Pakistani ambassador, Jamshed Marker, stressed the need for deploying neutral observers to supervise the situation there. He was responding to the allegations of the Indian external affairs minister, who said that Pakistan has been abetting armed terrorist activities in the occupied Kashmir and the Indian state of Punjab. Referring to Pakistan's suggestions to deploy neutral international observers to inquire into such allegations and to supervise the situation there, he said India has rejected those suggestions. Jamshed Marker said the terrorism in occupied Kashmir has been committed by the Indian troops themselves. This has been mentioned in the reports of several human rights organizations, including Amnesty International. He also read aloud an excerpt of a report, which has been prepared by an Indian human rights organization.

The Pakistani ambassador took note of the statement of the Indian external affairs minister, in which he criticized the dissolution of the National Assembly and the dismissal of the Pakistan People's Party government. He said the president dismissed that government as per the constitutional provisions, and added that the democratic process continues in the country and fresh elections will be held within a month.

Qayyum Khan Sworn In As Azad Kashmir President

BK3009082090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan was sworn in as the president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir for another term in Muzaffarabad today. The chief justice of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Sardar Syed Mohammad Khan, administered the oath.

General Beg Describes Army Role in Elections

BK3009100090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Sep pp 1, 8

[Text] Karachi, Sept 29—General Mirza-Aslam Beg, Chief of the Army Staff, has said that the army would provide every possible assistance for the maintenance of law and order during coming general elections. He directed the senior officers to identify areas and constituencies where problems are expected.

He was addressing the garrison officers in Malir Cantt here today. Lt. Gen. Asif Nawaz, the Corps Commander, was also present on the occasion.

General Beg said that elections would be held according to the schedule announced by the government. He termed the rumours about imposition of martial law or postponement of elections as totally fabricated and part of disinformation campaign launched by the anti-state elements.

General Aslam Beg told the officers that law and order situation in Sindh and some other parts of the country was aggravated due to foreign intervention which has been consistently providing training and weapons to terrorists.

"The main purpose behind this policy is to destabilise Pakistan and also sabotage the democratic process," he added.

General Beg further said that the government has obtained clear evidence and proofs about infiltration of trained terrorists in Pakistan to create law and order situation during elections. He assured the officers that government would deal with this type of terrorism firmly and effectively with the help of patriotic citizens.

He hoped that better political environments would emerge after the elections which could help the newly elected government to solve the law and order problems particularly in Sindh. He praised the intiative of various factions in Sindh to start dialogue for better understanding among themselves.

"It would lead to political harmony and peaceful conditions in the province." he remarked.

Talking about the measures being taken to further enhance the operational readiness of the army, General Beg said that the induction of new weapons and progressive training has brought about a meaningful change in our thinking and combat effectiveness. He particularly mentioned the enhanced capability to manufacture weapons, ammunition and equipment indigenously.

He said that Pakistan has signed a contract with China for the co-prodution of Pakistani tank—Al Khalid—named after famous Muslim Genral Hazrat Khalid Bin Waleeed. He said that army has also acquired very meaningful anti-tank capability to deal with the enemy tank threat. The purpose of these steps is to lessen our dependence on foreign military support.

During his speech Chief of the Army Staff also apprised the officers about the current situation prevailing in Kashmir, Gulf and South Asia.—PPI [PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL].

Reveals 'Plot' To Create Disorder

BK0110112590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] The chief election commissioner, Mr. Justice Naimuddin, had a meeting with the chief of the Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, in Rawalpindi today. Taking to him, the chief of the Army Staff said the Pakistan Army would ensure that elections are held on schedule and any attempt from any quarter to thwart the process would be dealt with in the sternest manner. He also briefed the chief election commissioner on the overall situation of the country.

He said that an extremely dangerous plot to cause a grave law and order situation in the country had been discovered lately. The miscreants had planned to cause trouble all over the country, but the concentration was for the Province of Sindh in particular.

Army Chief Postpones Visit to China, South Korea

BK2909012690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1912 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 28 (AFP)—Pakistan's Army chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg, will postpone his scheduled visit to China and South Korea, a Defence Ministry statement here said Friday. Gen. Beg was to leave for a week-long trip to the two countries on Saturday. It said the visit has been put off "for the time-being" and did not give reasons for the postponement. The statement said the two sides were trying to establish a new date for the visit.

'Surprise' Over Postponement

BK3009094690 Lahore THE NATON in English 30 Sep 90 p12

[By Mariana Baabar]

[Text] Islamabad—The capital was buzzing with rumours and speculations on Saturday. According to our sources in Rawalpindi, postponement of Gen Beg's trip to China took them by surprise and they were informed by telephone from Karachi only hours before he was due to fly from Islamabad. The COAS [Chief of Army Staff] is expected back in Rawalpindi on Saturday night. The same sources confirmed that this was the second time that Beg had to postpone his trip to China. The last one was scheduled in May.

According to the sources it will be only after the General Elections that fresh dates could be fixed. Ambassador Robert Oakley is arriving a day or two earlier than scheduled as confirmed by US sources. This has also provided food for thought. Previously the American envoy was raching Islamabad on October 5, about which time Beg was scheduled to return from abroad.

Sources say that neither Jatoi's appeals abroad nor Sartaj Aziz's efforts in the United States have yielded any result. Together with this, are refusals of foreign donors like the World Bank and the IMF to come to Pakistan's assistance. With political uncertainty the country is also virtually on the brink of financial bankruptcy.

Gen Beg was updated by Jatoi in Karachi on his efforts and it was after this meeting that he decided to postpone his trip, though it could not be confirmed whether the meeting with Jatoi itself was the decisive factor. Another report speaks of political changes where special attention is being focussed on the Chairman Senate, Wasim Sajjad. One source pointed out that Benazir Bhutto is giving harsh statements agianst President Ishaq.

Government officials also point to the situation on our borders where they claim there has been heavy deployment by the enemy for the last 10 days. Together with this is the enemy's unprovoked and increased reign of terror in occupied Kashmir. Though there were no official comments from the ISPR [Inter-Service Public Relations] on reasons for Beg's postponement, it would be safe to assume that either the heat is being felt on the borders or some major political development is about to take place at home.

Bhutto To Make First Court Appearance 30 Sep

BK2909113790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Karachi, Sept 29 (AFP)—Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said here Saturday she would obey a court order to stand trial for alleged corruption during her 20-month rule. Ms. Bhutto told journalists after meeting with commerce officials here that she would appear before a special one-judge court Sunday following a subpoena issued earlier this week.

The special court Thursday ordered her to appear in court to answer two cases of alleged misconduct during her rule, which ended when President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked Ms. Bhutto and dissolved parliament August 6. Eleven special courts set up to try and sentence members of her government have been empowered to proceed in absentia.

"We have challenged the jurisdiction of the special courts," Ms. Bhutto said Saturday. "I am going there to make this point." A special court in Lahore has also ordered her to appear in court October 2 and October 9 to answer two separate cases of alleged corruption.

Court Adjourns Until 10 Oct

BK3009113790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] The special court of Mr. Justice Waziruddin Ahmed continued hearing of two references against the former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto Sahibah, in Karachi today. The respondent, who was issued notice by the court to present herself in person, was present in the court. The counsel of the respondent, Mr. Yahya Bakhtiar, made his arguments during the proceeding. He questioned the legality of the court and said that despite the fact that Benazir Bhutto Sahibah had not received any notice to appear and she came to know of it through newspapers, she decided to appear to show respect to the judiciary as a judge of the high court is presiding over the court. He complained that he had so far not received the copies of the relevant documents concerning the references. The court ordered that all relevant documents be made available to him. After hearing the arguments of the counsel, the court adjourned further hearing till 10th of next month.

Court Grants Zardari Protection Against Arrest

BK2909103990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1023 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Karachi, Sept 29 (AFP)—A special court here Saturday granted Asif Ali Zardari, husband of ousted Premier Benazir Bhutto, protection against arrest in a bank loan fraud case, officials said. Mr. Zardari, a businessman and prospective candidate in next month's general elections, was asked to furnish a surety of 20 million rupees (about 900,000 U.S. dollars), the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said.

The presiding officer of the court trying banking offences, retired Justice Fakhruddin H. Shaikh, granted to Mr. Zardari bail before arrest, a legal provision enabling citizens to seek court intervention against feared detention. In a petition Mr. Zardari said the Federal Investigation Agency intended arresting him on a charge of helping a friend obtain a 300 million rupees (about 13 million dollars) loan from the Habib Bank during Ms. Bhutto's premiership.

The friend, Fauzi Ali Kazmi, and two former bank officials were granted bail by the court recently. Mr. Zardari, whose name has been frequently mentioned in press reports on alleged financial scandals, was present in the court. [passage omitted]

Faces New Embezzlement Charge

BK2909170090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Karachi, Sept 29 (AFP)—Asif Ali Zardari, husband of ousted Premier Benazir Bhutto, is to face a new charge of embezzlement, police sources said Saturday. Mr. Zardari is accused of influencing the Karachi Development Authority in the sale of some 37 acres of land to four construction companies at "throw-away" prices, they said, adding that former Chief Minister of Sindh Province Qaim Ali Shah has also been charged.

Earlier Saturday, a special court granted Mr. Zardari protection against arrest in a bank loan fraud case, officials said. Mr. Zardari, a businessman and prospective candidate in next month's general elections, was asked to furnish a surety of 20 million rupees (about 900,000 dollars), the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN said.

The presiding officer of the court trying banking offences, retired Justice Fakhruddin H. Shaikh, granted Mr. Zardari bail before arrest, a legal provision enabling citizens to seek court intervention against feared detention. In a petition Mr. Zardari said the Federal Investigation Agency intended to arrest him on a charge of helping a friend obtain a 300 million rupee (about 13 million dollar) loan from the Habib Bank during Ms. Bhutto's premiership, which ended when President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed her August 6. Special courts set up to try and sentence former members of her government are empowered to debar those convicted from politics for seven years.

Former Bhutto Minister Akbar Lasi Rearrested

BK2909163290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1611 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Sept 29 (AFP)—A former Pakistani minister has been re-arrested following his release ordered by the Balochistan high court, police sources here said Saturday. Ghulam Akbar Lasi, formerly a minister in the government of ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, was detained by the Federal Investigation Agency and taken to Garhi Khairo in Sindh Province, the sources said without elaborating on the new charges. The high court Wednesday suspended a one-year prison sentence handed down to Mr. Lasi for exceeding a prescribed limit on campaign spending in the run-up to 1988 elections.

Sri Lanka

Iraq Seeks Recruits To Fight U.S.

BK3009104290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0930 GMT 30 Sep 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sep 30 (LANKAPUVATH)—Iraq plans to recruit Sri Lankans for their war against U.S. imperialists and already about 1,000 applications of Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims have been finalised and await repatriation, the SUNDAY OBSERVER reports quoting Iraqi Ambassador in Sri Lanka Tariq Ahmad al-Ma'ruf. The report states that the delay was due to Iraq already having one million under uniform and another six million awaiting mobilisation. Also Iraq has no plans of war with the enemy unless its territorial integrity was violated, he said. About 15,000 Sri Lankans left Kuwait and Iraq becoming refugees elsewhere or returned home. The rest, over 80,000, are happily living there with no complaints. The number of Lankans living in Iraq would be around 5,000 to 6,000. Iraq does not want to hold back any foreigner unless he belonged to a hostile country qualifying them to stay with a Iraqi family till the situation normalises. If Iraqi Airways agreed to bring back the stranded Lankans home, Sri Lanka could use the return flights to send food to their counterparts awaiting repatriation here. This position was misreported in the local press as Iraq was asking for food in return. However, the flights will not be free. Sri Lanka's abiding by UN sanctions could produce economically drastic reprecussions. Asked about the ship carrying Sri Lanka tea being diverted elsewhere, the ambassador said it was their business. For the query on TIME magazine report on smuggling at the Turkey and Iran borders, he said: "Let them stop, if possible". Israel also annexed foreign land and when the UN imposed sanctions U.S. vetoed it. So what was the justification of imposing them on Iraq, he asked. The sanctions leave 18 million persons including children without food, a fact Sri Lankan media never highlighted as did on the other matters of the Gulf crisis.

Labor Minister Visits Gulf To Speed Evacuations

BK0110120590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] The minister of labor and vocational training, G.M. Premachandra, left for the Middle East on the instructions of the president to expedite the repatriation of Sri Lankans in Kuwait and Jordan. The minister will discuss ways of increasing flights bringing in more Sri Lankans with Iraqi officials, the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross], and the International Organization for Migration. A ministry statement says that 2,000 Sri Lankans will be brought daily from this week. The minister will also investigate the possibility of bringing Sri Lankans direct from Kuwait. Four thousand two hundred and twenty-two persons were brought by air and sea during the weekend.

LTTE 'Terrorists' Move Into Jaffna Fort

BK2909120890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] No major incidents have been reported from the northern and eastern provinces during the last 24 hours. It is reported that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have moved into the Jaffna Fort which was evacuated by the security forces. Reports also indicate that several buildings of great archaeological value inside the fort have been destroyed by the LTTE terrorists. These included the old Dutch Church and the old King's House.

A Defense Ministry communique said the security forces moved out of the Jaffna Fort to make way for the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] to engage in supervision of humanitarian services within the Jaffna Fort. Military sources were confident that the LTTE terrorists will not remain in occupation of the Jaffna Fort much longer because, they said, it is one of the most vulnerable targets in the Jaffna Peninsula.

The communique further said that a meeting convened by the secretary to the president, the progress so far made with regard to the restoration of civil administration in the Eastern Province was discussed. The shortcomings in relation to reconstruction and rehabilitation were also discussed. This meeting was held at the presidential secretariat on Thursday. It was attended by all relevant ministry secretaries, the general officer commanding of the Eastern Province, the brigade commanders, and GA's [government agents]. It was noted that attendance in government offices was fast returning to normal. It was decided that (?estate) officers who have so far not reported to work should now be treated as having vacated their posts. Casual employees will be recruited from the respective areas. Bus services have not yet returned to normal. Train services up to Batticaloa have now been extended up to Valaichchenai. It is reported that train services beyond Galle Junction to Trincomalee will begin operation soon. Train services are functioning up to Vavuniya.

According to the communique, the food supply situation in the Trincomalee, Batticaloa, and Amparai Districts is reported to be very satisfactory. The Amparai District now has a buffer stock sufficient for about two months. Almost all the hospitals and medical institutions in these three districts are functioning. Most of the schools have reopened, except for those which have been used to accommodate displaced persons. Meanwhile, donations received by the National Defense Fund exceeded the 179-million-rupee mark.

Army, Police Seize Automatic Arms, Ammunition

BK0110095890 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0807 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, 1 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—Army and police yesterday seized a large haul of 165 automatic weapons and nearly 100,000 rounds of ammunition in four separate raids on Tiger [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—LTTE] hideouts in the Eastern Province, during which three Tigers were killed. The first operation was conducted on a Tiger hideout at Nelumkulan in the Welioya area. Here, the Army's crack commandos, eliminated the only three LTTE cadres they encountered and seized 105 automatic weapons, including light machine guns, AK 47s, G-3 rifles, and 1.5 and 1.3 zero weapons.

They also recovered over 40,000 rounds of ammunition and a large stock of unspecified explosives. At Sambalativu in the Trincomalee area, the commandos again raided an LTTE hideout and bagged 31 automatic weapons including sub-machine guns, AK 47s, 55,000 round of ammunition, 100 hand grenades and several tool kits. Army sources in Colombo said the commandos had met no opposition during their raid.

In another operation on an LTTE hideout at Pallaituwawa in Trincomalee, the police recovered 24 submachine guns and one 5 zero weapon. Several light machine gun magazines and nearly 1,500 rounds of ammunition were among the seized firearms. In the Trincomalee town area, police also recovered 4 self-loading rifles and 200 round of ammunition.

Army sources in Colombo yesterday said that in all these operations, a very large number of spare magazines were also recovered. Security force detachments at Elephant Pass and Vasavilan came under sporadic LTTE mortar and small arms fire, but these were repulsed without the troops suffering any casualties, reports said. Security forces said they had also recovered around 2,000 rounds of ammunition at Kiran, north of Batticaloa, yesterday.